

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

*Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session*



House Bill No. 3163

Introduced by Honorable Roy M. Loyola

EXPLANATORY NOTE

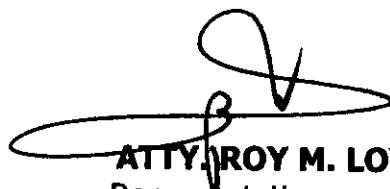
Local government planners serve as key architects of sustainable development, urban governance, and the responsible use of public resources. Despite their critical role in the crafting and execution of development plans, land use strategies, and infrastructure programming, local planners across cities and municipalities continue to face systemic challenges such as limited professional recognition, lack of protection in service, and insufficient opportunities for continuing education.

This bill seeks to promote the professionalization, security of tenure, equitable compensation, and welfare of local planners by instituting a Magna Carta for Local Planners. It is aligned with the constitutional mandate under:

- **Article II, Section 27:** "The State shall maintain honesty and integrity in the public service and take positive and effective measures against graft and corruption."
- **Article X, Section 3:** "The Congress shall enact a local government code which shall provide for a more responsive and accountable local government structure..."
- **Article XII, Section 1:** "The goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services... and expanding productivity..."

This measure affirms the principle that a strong nation begins with strong local institutions—and that behind every sustainable local government is a competent and empowered local planner.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ATTY. ROY M. LOYOLA
Representative
Fifth District, Cavite

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AN ACT

INSTITUTING A MAGNA CARTA FOR LOCAL PLANNERS, PROVIDING FOR THEIR RIGHTS, WELFARE, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND SECURITY OF TENURE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. *Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the "Magna Carta for Local
2 Planners."

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 promote and protect the rights and welfare of local planners in the public sector by
5 providing a comprehensive framework for professionalization, fair compensation, career
6 advancement, and security of tenure.

7 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this Act: a) Local Planner refers to a
8 duly appointed professional occupying a plantilla position in a local government unit
9 (LGU) primarily responsible for planning and development functions, including but not
10 limited to Municipal/City Planning and Development Coordinators and their staff.

11 b) CPDC means the City or Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator.

12 c) Professional Development refers to formal or informal training, education, and
13 certification opportunities aligned with urban and regional planning competencies.

14 d) Relevant Laws include the Local Government Code of 1991, Civil Service Rules, and
15 Republic Act No. 10587 (Environmental Planning Law of 2013).

16 **SEC. 4. *Rights and Benefits.*** - Local planners shall be entitled to the following:

- 17 a) Security of Tenure in accordance with civil service laws and LGU career guidelines;
18 b) Equitable Compensation at salary grades comparable to other technical services;
19 c) Hazard and Special Duty Pay where applicable;
20 d) Access to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programs, including funding
21 for graduate studies or certification;
22 e) Representation in Local Development Councils and Executive-Legislative Agenda
23 (ELA) formulation;
24 f) Right to a Healthy Working Environment, including protection from political
25 interference in the performance of professional functions.

26 **SEC. 5. *Professionalization of Local Planning Offices.*** - The Department of
27 the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall
28 develop competency standards, job descriptions, and performance metrics for local
29 planning offices in accordance with Republic Act No. 10587.

30 **SEC. 6. *Plantilla Position and Staffing.*** - All cities and municipalities shall be
31 required to establish and fill the plantilla positions necessary for effective planning
32 operations, including:

- 33 • Planning and Development Coordinator
- 34 • Assistant Planning and Development Coordinator
- 35 • Planning Officers
- 36 • Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialists
- 37 • Technical Support Staff

38 **SEC. 7. *Continuing Education and Training.*** - Local planners shall be entitled
39 to leave and financial support for seminars, training, and certification courses conducted
40 by PRC-accredited CPD providers, the League of Local Planning and Development
41 Coordinators (LLPDC), and the DILG-Local Government Academy.

42 **SEC. 8. *Funding.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act
43 shall be charged against the respective Local Government Unit budgets and the
44 national budget under the Local Government Support Fund. Additional funding may
45 be sourced from the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

46 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days
47 from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, CSC, Department of Budget and
48 Management (DBM), and the League of Cities and Municipalities shall promulgate
49 the necessary rules and regulations.

50 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared
51 unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder shall not be affected.

52 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and
53 regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

54 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
55 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

56 Approved,