

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3780



Introduced by Lone District of Agusan del Norte Representative
HON. DALE B. CORVERA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE OFFICERS AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS IN PROVINCES, CITIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443, 454, 463, 483, AND 484 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The implementation of environmental protection and social welfare development functions are among the five fundamental functions devolved to local government units through the enactment of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”.

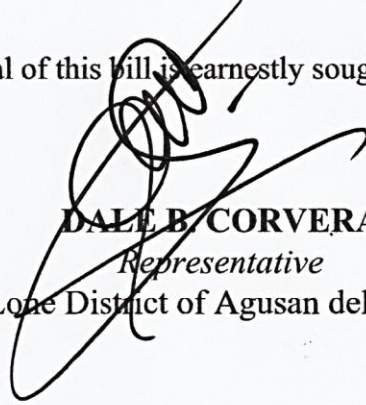
Although RA No. 7160 provides for the positions of Environment and Natural Resources Officer (ENROs) and Social Welfare and Development Officers (SWDOs), the appointment of ENROs remains optional for provinces, cities, and municipalities under Section 484 of the Code. On the other hand, the appointment of Social Welfare and Development Officers (SWDOs) is only mandatory for provinces and cities under Section 483 of the Code. Interestingly, the latest criteria for the Seal of Good Local Governance require the appointment of full-fledged SWDOs across all levels.

The enactment of subsequent laws to RA No. 7160 have placed additional mandates to ENROs such as RA No. 8749, otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999”; RA No. 9003, otherwise known as the “Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000”, and RA No. 9275, otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean Water Act of 2004”.

Meanwhile, SWDOs are mandated additional functions under RA No. 8980, otherwise known as the “ECCD Act”, and RA No. 9344, otherwise known as the “Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006”, as amended, among others. In fact, Section 16 of RA No. 9344 even mandated that “all LGUs shall appoint a duly licensed social worker as its local social welfare and development officer tasked to assist children in conflict with the law”.

For these reasons, there is an urgent need to immediately reclassify the ENRO and SWDO as mandatory positions in all provinces, cities and municipalities across the country.

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



DALE B. CORVERA
Representative
Lone District of Agusan del Norte

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DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS IN PROVINCES, CITIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443, 454, 463, 483, AND 484 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 443. *Officials of the Municipal Government.*

(a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health officer ~~[and]~~, a municipal civil registrar, **A MUNICIPAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, AND A MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER.**

(b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal administrator, a municipal legal officer, a municipal agriculturist, ~~[a municipal environment and natural resources officer, a municipal social welfare and development officer,]~~ a municipal architect, and a municipal information officer.

xxx.”

SEC. 2. Section 454 of the RA No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 454. *Officials of the City Government.*

(a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, **A CITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER**, and a city general services officer.

(b) In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a city architect, a city information officer, a city agriculturist, a city population officer, [~~a city environment and natural resources officer,~~] and a city cooperatives officer.

The appointment of a city population officer shall be optional in the city: Provided, however, That cities which have existing population offices shall continue to maintain such offices for a period of five (5) years from the date of the effectivity of this Code, after which said offices shall become optional.

xxx.”

SEC. 3. Section 463 of the RA No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 463. *Officials of the Provincial Government.*

(a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, **A PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER**, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, and a provincial veterinarian.

(b) In addition thereto, the governor may appoint a provincial population officer, [~~a provincial environment and natural resources officer,~~] a provincial cooperative officer, a provincial architect, and a provincial information officer.

The appointment of a provincial population officer shall be optional in the province: Provided, however, That provinces which have existing population offices shall continue to maintain such offices for a period of five (5) years from the date of the effectivity of this Code, after which said offices shall become optional.

xxx.”

SEC. 4. Section 483 of the RA No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 483. *Qualifications, Powers and Duties.*

(a) No person shall be appointed social welfare and development officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government concerned, of good moral character, a duly licensed social worker or a holder of a college degree preferably in sociology or any other related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in the practice of social work for at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial or city social welfare and development officer, and three (3) years in the case of the municipal social welfare and development officer.

The appointment of a social welfare and development officer is mandatory for provincial [~~and~~], city, **AND MUNICIPAL** governments[~~, and optional for municipal government~~].

xxx.”

SEC. 5. Section 484 of the RA No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 484. *Qualifications, Powers and Duties.*

(a) No person shall be appointed environment and natural resources officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in environment, forestry, agriculture or any related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in environmental and natural resources management, conservation, and utilization, of at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial or city environment and natural resources officer, and three (3) years in the case of the municipal environment and natural resources officer.

The appointment of the environment and natural resources officer is [optional] **MANDATORY** for provincial, city, and municipal governments.

xxx.”

SEC. 6. The Department of the Interior and Local Government shall, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, in coordination with the DBM and other relevant concerned government agencies, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 7. If, for any reason, any section, clause or term of this Act is held to be illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,