



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3957



Introduced by Representative **ANTONINO B. ROMAN III**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Local Government Code of 1991 (Republic Act No. 7160) empowers provinces, cities, and municipalities, through their respective sanggunians, to enact ordinances necessary to carry out devolved powers and promote the general welfare.

Under Sections 447(a)(1)(ii), 458(a)(1)(ii), and 468(a)(1)(ii), however, the authority of LGUs to impose penalties for violations of ordinances is limited to fines not exceeding Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000) and imprisonment of not more than one (1) year.

This ceiling, unchanged since 1991, has lost its deterrent value due to inflation and the rising costs of governance. Many violators treat the current maximum fine as negligible, undermining the ability of LGUs to enforce compliance with ordinances, especially in matters involving public order, environmental protection, and community safety.

This bill therefore proposes to increase the maximum allowable penalty to Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000) and/or imprisonment of up to two (2) years.

Furthermore, to prevent obsolescence of these ceilings, the bill mandates the periodic review and adjustment of penalties every five (5) years by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with local government units and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP).

This measure seeks to strengthen local governance by giving LGUs updated and flexible tools to promote accountability, discipline, and community welfare. Immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTIONS 447(a)(1)(iii), 458(a)(1)(iii), AND 468(a)(1)(iii) OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991,” BY INCREASING THE FINES AND
PENALTIES THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS MAY PRESCRIBE UNDER
THEIR ORDINANCES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE PERIODIC REVIEW AND
ADJUSTMENT THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. Adjustment of Penalties Imposable under a Municipal Ordinance. --
Section 447(a)(1)(iii) of Republic Act No. 7160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(iii) Approve ordinances imposing a fine not exceeding Thirty Thousand Pesos (₱30,000.00) or imprisonment not exceeding one (1) year, in the discretion of the court, for the violation of a municipal ordinance;

SECTION 2. Adjustment of Penalties Imposable under a City Ordinance. -- Section 458(a)(1)(iii) of Republic Act No. 7160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(iii) Approve ordinances imposing a fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) or imprisonment not exceeding two (2) years, or both, at the discretion of the court, for the violation of a city ordinance;

SECTION 3. Adjustment of Penalties Imposable under a Provincial Ordinance. --
Section 468(a)(1)(iii) of Republic Act No. 7160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

(iii) Approve ordinances imposing a fine not exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) or imprisonment not exceeding two (2) years, or both, at the discretion of the court, for the violation of a provincial ordinance;

SECTION 4. Periodic Review and Adjustment of Penalties. – To maintain the effectiveness of penalties as deterrents, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall, every five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act, review the maximum amounts herein provided. After due consultation with local government units and the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), the DILG shall recommend to Congress the

necessary adjustment of fines and penalties, taking into account inflation and prevailing economic conditions.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,