

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **4644**



Introduced by Representative **ROLANDO M. VALERIANO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008 or Republic Act No. 9514, stands as a cornerstone of the nation's commitment to public safety, economic development, and the professionalization of the fire service. Since its enactment, the Code has provided a comprehensive framework for fire prevention, suppression, and the enforcement of safety standards across the country. However, the rapid pace of urbanization, the emergence of new economic and industrial zones, technological advancements, and the increasing complexity of fire hazards have exposed regulatory gaps and operational challenges that must now be addressed.

This proposed measure seeks to update and strengthen the Fire Code to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness in safeguarding lives, property, and critical infrastructure. The bill expands the applicability of the law to encompass all persons, buildings, facilities, and structures—including those situated within economic zones, information technology parks, tourism zones, and other special entities—as well as vehicles, ships, petroleum installations, airports, and other high-risk areas. By closing existing regulatory gaps, the measure ensures that all sectors, particularly those with heightened fire risks, are subject to uniform and robust fire safety standards.

Recognizing the need for adequate resources to fulfill its mandate, the bill modernizes the funding mechanisms of the BFP by introducing new sources of income, including fees for the issuance of clearances assessed based on floor area and hazard level. These mechanisms are intended to support the continuous upgrading of the BFP's manpower, infrastructure, and equipment, enabling it to respond effectively to the evolving landscape of fire risks.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to fortify the nation's fire safety framework, promote accountability, and ensure the protection of lives, property, and the national economy from the devastating effects of fire.

ROLANDO M. VALERIANO

Representative

Manila, 2nd District

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AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 4 AND 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
9514, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FIRE CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES OF 2008," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9514 is hereby amended to read as
follows:

"Section 4. Applicability of the Code. The provisions of this Fire Code shall apply to
all persons, buildings, facilities, structures, and public utilities, whether publicly or
privately owned, including those elected or constructed before and after the effectivity
of this Act. It shall cover industrial zones, agro-industrial zones, economic zones,
special economic zones, tourism economic zones, and similar entities."

SECTION 2. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9514 is hereby amended to read as
follows:

"Section 12. Appropriation and Sources of Income.

(a) To support BFP manpower, infrastructure and equipment needs of the fire service of the BFP, such amount as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the Fire Code shall be appropriated and included in the annual appropriation of the BFP.

(b) To partially provide for the funding of the fire service, the following taxes and fees which shall accrue to the general fund of the National Government, are hereby imposed:

- (1) Fees to be charged for the issuance of certificates, permits and licenses as provided for in Section 7(a) hereof;
- (2) One-tenth of one percent (0.10%) of the verified estimated value of buildings or structures to be erected, from the owner thereof, one half to be paid prior to the issuance of the building permit, and the balance, after final inspection and prior to the issuance of the occupancy permit;
- (3) One-hundredth of one per centum, (0.01%) of the assessed value of buildings or structures annually payable upon payment of the real estate tax, except on structures used as single family dwellings;
- (4) Two percent (2%) of all premiums, excluding reinsurance premiums for the sale of fire, earthquake and explosion hazard insurance collected by companies, persons or agents licenses to sell such insurances in the Philippines;
- (5) Two percent (2%) of the gross sale of companies, persons, or agents selling firefighting equipment, appliances or devices, including hazard detection and warning systems; and

- (6) Two percent (2%) of the service fees received from fire, earthquake, and explosion hazard reinsurance survey and post loss service of insurance adjustment companies doing business in the Philippines directly through agents.

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government, through the BFP, shall issue the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.