

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4955



Introduced by Rep. Dante S. Garcia and Rep. Kenneth Paolo Tereng

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTIONS 58 AND 59 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), as the primary agency mandated to prevent and suppress destructive fires, conduct fire investigations, and undertake emergency medical and rescue services, is central to the country's public safety infrastructure. With the operational expansion of the Bureau pursuant to Republic Act No. 11589 or the BFP Modernization Act of 2021, it has become imperative to align its internal systems, particularly its rank classification and organizational structure with its broadened scope of responsibilities.

At present, Sections 58 and 59 of Republic Act No. 6975 or the "Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990" remain the governing provisions for the BFP's rank and organizational framework. However, these sections have not been meaningfully updated to reflect the Bureau's growing complexity and evolving operational demands. The lack of a fully defined vertical command structure, modernized career pathways, and functional decentralization at the regional and field levels continues to hinder the effective implementation of the Bureau's modernization.

This legislative measure seeks to amend the said provisions by establishing a rationalized and professionalized rank classification system for all BFP uniformed personnel. The bill adopts a tiered structure with clear lines of authority across the national, regional, provincial, and station levels of the Bureau, ensuring that leadership and responsibility are well-aligned with field operations. The proposed rank system maintains the Bureau's civilian identity, using traditional rank nomenclature (Fire

Officer I to Fire Director General), instead of adopting military equivalents, in recognition of the distinct role and culture of the fire service.

This measure is substantially aligned with the legislative intent of Senate Bill No. 2586 of the 19th Congress, which proposed a unified and rational rank classification system across all uniformed Bureaus under the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). However, this bill departs from that measure in two significant respects: first, by maintaining the civilian character of BFP ranks; and second, by amending the enabling statute of the Bureau, RA 6975, rather than RA 9263.

The proposed amendments also outline key positions and command structure across all levels of the Bureau, allowing for clearer delineation of responsibilities, functional oversight, and internal mobility. These structural changes are designed to enhance the delivery of fire protection services nationwide, promote career development, and strengthen leadership across operational units.

This proposed legislation represents the institutional intent of the Bureau of Fire Protection, developed through close consultation and consensus among its various Directorates. It is a product of a unified effort within the Bureau to update and strengthen its internal governance in support of its modernization and professionalization mandate.



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

SECTION 1. Title- This Act shall be known as the "BFP Organizational Strengthening and Rank Classification Act of 2025."

SECTION 2. Section 58 of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 58. Rank Classification.

For purposes of clarity of command and responsibility, and for the effective and efficient administration, supervision, and control of the Bureau of Fire Protection, the rank classification of the members of the Bureau shall be as follows:

- 1. Fire Director General**
- 2. Fire Deputy Director General**
- 3. Fire Director**
- 4. Fire Chief Superintendent**
- 5. Fire Senior Superintendent**
- 6. Fire Superintendent**
- 7. Fire Chief Inspector**
- 8. Fire Senior Inspector**
- 9. Fire Inspector**
- 10. Senior Fire Officer IV**
- 11. Senior Fire Officer III**
- 12. Senior Fire Officer II**
- 13. Senior Fire Officer I**
- 14. Fire Officer III**

15. Fire Officer II

16. Fire Officer I

The rank classifications herein provided shall be used for all purposes related to command, promotion, and other career-related advancements of personnel in the Bureau of Fire Protection, as well as for the general supervision and effective response to emergencies and disasters. The rank structure shall be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with the operational needs of the Bureau."

SECTION 3. Section 59 of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 59. Key Positions.

The head of the Fire Bureau with the rank of **Fire Director General (FDG)** shall have the position title of Chief, Bureau of Fire Protection. He/she shall be assisted by 2 deputy chiefs, one (1) for Administration and one (1) for Operations, both with the rank of **Fire Deputy Director General (FDDG)**. All of whom shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of the DILG from among the qualified officers with at least the rank of **Fire Chief Superintendent (FCSUPT)** in the service: *Provided*, that in no case shall any officer who has retired or is retirable within six (6) months from his/her compulsory retirement age be appointed as Chief of the Fire Bureau, as the case may be, *Provided, further*, that the Chief of the Fire Bureau shall serve a **tour of duty not to exceed three (3) years**: *Provided, however*, that in times of war or other national emergency declared by Congress, the President may extend such tour of duty.

At the national headquarters, with the rank of Fire Deputy Director General (FDDG), shall have the position title of Chief Directorial Staff (CDS), who shall be assisted by the Directors of the various Directorates in the National Headquarters (NHQ), each with the rank of Fire Director.

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) shall construct, establish, operate, and maintain Regional Headquarters in each administrative region of the country. Each Regional Headquarters shall be headed by a Regional Director, who shall be assisted by the following officers: The Deputy Regional Director for Administration, the Deputy Regional Director for Operations, and the Regional Chief of Staff.

National Capital Region (NCR) shall be headed by a Regional Director with the rank of Fire Director, the BFP shall establish District Headquarters, each headed by a District Director with the rank of Fire Chief Superintendent. Each district shall have subordinate Fire Stations that shall be headed by a City Director with the rank of SSUPT, City Fire Chief with the rank of SUPT, or a Station Commander with the rank of Fire Chief Inspector depending on the local government unit's classification.

At the provincial level, the BFP shall establish a Provincial Headquarters headed by a Provincial Director. The Provincial Director shall be responsible for implementing the Bureau's policies, plans, and programs, as well as monitoring,

evaluating, and coordinating fire service operations across all cities and municipalities within the province

Fire Stations in Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs) shall be headed by a City Director with the rank of **Fire Senior Superintendent (FSSUPT)**.

In other cities and municipalities, fire stations shall be headed by a **City Fire Chief with the rank of Fire Superintendent (FSUPT)** or a **Municipal Fire Chief with the rank of Fire Chief Inspector (FCINSP)** respectively, as appropriate based on the local government unit's classification.

Section 4. Repealing Clause. – All provisions of Republic Act No. 6975, as amended by Republic Act No. 9263 otherwise known as the "Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004", shall remain in full force and effect, except those specifically pertaining to rank reclassification and organizational structure of the Bureau of Fire Protection, which are hereby amended or modified accordingly by this Act. Any other laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Transitory Provisions. In view of the amendments to Sections 58 and 59 of Republic Act No. 6975, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall implement necessary transitions and adjustments within the Bureau of Fire Protection, including the reclassification of positions and ranks within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with the Bureau of Fire Protection and Civil Service Commission, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act to ensure the proper implementation of the provisions herein

SECTION 7. 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 9. 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,