

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5048**



Introduced by Representative ZALDY "JECOY" S. VILLA

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTIONS 4 and 12 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT 9514, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 2008".

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Fire Code of Republic Act No. 9514 was initially crucial for ensuring public safety, promoting economic growth, and developing the fire service. It established a thorough system for preventing and suppressing fires. However, fast-paced development, new industrial areas, technological change, and growing fire hazards have made the Code's current rules insufficient, revealing regulatory and operational gaps that require immediate attention.

This bill seeks to update and strengthen the Fire Code to keep it relevant and effective in protecting lives, property, and critical infrastructures. The proposed law will apply to everyone and everything, from regular buildings to big business areas, airports, ships, and any place with a high fire risk. This effort closes existing gaps and makes sure that all sectors must meet the same high standard for fire safety.

To make sure that the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) has enough budget to do its job right, this bill introduces new ways for the BFP to earn funds, including new fees for fire clearances base on the size and danger level of a building. These funds will be specifically used for the continuous modernizing the BFP's personnel, facilities, and equipment, allowing them to effectively handle and respond better to today's complex fire threats.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill will strengthen our national fire safety rules, hold people more accountable, and ultimately protect lives, property, and our economy from devastating fires.


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

SECTION 1. *Section 4 of Republic Act of 9514 is hereby amended to read as follows:*

“SEC. 4. *Applicability of the Code.* – The provision of the Fire Code shall apply to all persons and all private buildings, facilities, and structures erected or constructed before and after its effectivity including those that are classified as economic zone, agro-industrial economic, free ports and special economic zone, Information Technology (IT) parks and centers, tourism economic zones, and other similar entities.

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

“SEC. 12. *Appropriation and Sources of Income.* –

- (a) To support the 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 per centum (0.1%) of the verified estimate 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 (0.10%) 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 per centum (2%) of all premiums, excluding reinsurance premiums for the sale of fire, earthquake and explosion hazard insurance collected by companies, persons or agents licensed to sell such insurances in the Philippines;
- (5) Two per centum (2%) of gross sales of companies, persons or agents selling firefighting equipment, appliances or devices, including hazard detection and warning systems; and
- (6) Two per centum (2%) of the service fees received from fire, earthquake, and explosion hazard reinsurance surveys and post loss service of insurance adjustment companies doing business in the Philippines directly through agents.

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

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared constitutional or invalid, the other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulation, or parts therefore, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved.