

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5050**



Introduced by Representative ZALDY “JECOY” S. VILLA

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) is the cornerstone of the nation’s public safety, responsible for preventing and suppressing fires, conducting investigations, and providing emergency medical and rescue services. Now that the BFP Modernization Act of 2021, Republic Act No. 11589 has significantly expanded the BFP’s operational, it’s necessary to update and align its internal systems, specifically its rank classification and organizational structure, to match its wider mandate.

Currently, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) rank and organizational structure is still governed by Section 58 and 59 of the Republic Act No. 6975 also known as the Department of Interior and Local Government Act of 1990. However, these sections are outdated and don’t reflect the BFP’s increasing complexity and modern operational needs. This stagnation, specifically the absence of a clear vertical command structure, modernized career paths, and functional decentralization at the regional and field levels is actively hindering the effective implementation of the BFP’s modernization efforts.

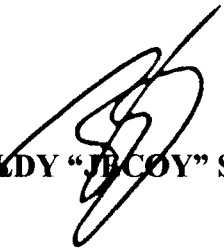
This bill seeks to amend the current, outdated provisions to establish a more rational and professionalized rank classification system for all uniformed BFP personnel. It also introduces a tiered structure with clear lines of authority that span the National, Regional, Provincial, and Station levels. This is intended to ensure that leadership and responsibilities directly align with the needs of field operations. The proposed rank structure will maintain the BFP’s civilian identity by using traditional fire service names instead of military ranks, recognizing the unique role and culture of the fire service.

This proposed bill largely aligns of the goals of Senate Bill No. 2586 filed in the 19th Congress which sought to create a single, logical rank classification system for all uniformed Bureaus under the Department of Interior and Local Government. However, this

currently proposed bill differs from Senate bill No. 2586 in two keys: 1. It keeps the civilian rank names for the BFP, instead of adopting military equivalents; 2. It amends the BFP's original enabling law, Republic Act No. 6975, rather than amending Republic Act No. 9263.

The proposed changes also detail the key positions and command structure throughout the BFP. This clarification will lead to a better definition of responsibilities, improved functional oversight, and greater opportunities for internal personnel movement. Ultimately, these structure reforms are intended to enhance the delivery of fire protection services nationwide, boost career development, and strengthen leadership across all operational units.

This proposed bill reflects the official will and internal intention of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). It was created through extensive consultation and consensus among its different Directorates. Essentially, it is the result of a unified effort within the Bureau to update and strengthen its internal governance to fully support its goals of modernization and professionalization.



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

“SEC. 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, 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 further amended to read as follows:*

“SEC. 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 Section 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 (BFP), including the reclassification of positions and ranks within one (1) year from 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 (BFP) and Civil Service Commission (CSC), 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.* – The declaration of invalidity of any provision of this Act or part thereof shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved.