

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5687**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

"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

Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the "Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990," established the organizational structure and functional framework of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), including the creation of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

Over three decades since its enactment, the demands on the Bureau of Fire Protection have significantly evolved due to rapid urbanization, technological advancements, increasing infrastructure complexity, and the growing frequency of climate-related emergencies and disasters. These developments require a more dynamic, efficient, and professional fire service that is capable of responding to modern challenges in fire prevention, suppression, rescue operations, and public safety.

This bill seeks to amend Sections 58 and 59 of Republic Act No. 6975 to provide for an updated rank classification and organizational structure within the Bureau of Fire Protection. The measure establishes a rationalized hierarchy of ranks—from Fire Officer I up to Fire Director General—that ensures clarity of command, merit-based promotion, and career progression consistent with modern public safety management systems.

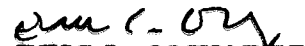
Moreover, the proposed amendment institutionalizes the organizational strengthening of the BFP by redefining the key leadership positions and functional hierarchy at the national, regional, provincial, district, city, and municipal levels. It formalizes the establishment of regional and local fire headquarters with defined command responsibilities aligned with the local government

classification, thereby enhancing coordination, accountability, and operational efficiency.

In harmony with Republic Act No. 9263, otherwise known as the "Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004," this measure preserves the professionalization framework and standards of the Bureau while introducing structural refinements necessary to implement the modernization program under Republic Act No. 11589 (BFP Modernization Act). It also recognizes the crucial role of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in policy supervision while allowing the BFP greater administrative and operational autonomy.

Ultimately, this bill aims to strengthen the organizational capability and leadership system of the Bureau of Fire Protection, ensure career growth and morale among its uniformed personnel, and enhance the Bureau's capacity to protect lives, property, and the environment against fires and related hazards.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


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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,