

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5688**



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

AN ACT

TRANSFERRING THE NATIONAL FIRE TRAINING INSTITUTE (NFTI) FROM THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY COLLEGE (PPSC) TO THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 66, 67, AND 68 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Anchored on the State's policy to ensure a highly professional, well-trained, and competent fire service, this bill seeks to transfer the National Fire Training Institute (NFTI) from the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) to the direct control and supervision of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), in full alignment with the objectives of the BFP Modernization Program under Republic Act No. 11589.

The BFP Modernization Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) expressly mandate the development of a comprehensive human resource and training program for all BFP personnel and volunteers, including the establishment of state-of-the-art training schools and facilities nationwide. This law empowers the BFP to conduct training for its personnel, officers, fire volunteers, and fire safety practitioners in all aspects of fire prevention, suppression, investigation, disaster preparedness, rescue, emergency medical response, and hazardous materials management.

In addition, Section 68(b)(d) of RA 11279 explicitly authorizes the DILG to create a separate academy for the BJMP and BFP, recognizing the distinct operational mandates and specialized training requirements of each bureau. This provision ensures that both institutions can independently design and implement professional development programs suited to their respective public safety roles.

Transferring the NFTI to the BFP is therefore a strategic institutional reform aimed at optimizing government resources, improving administrative efficiency, and ensuring that training programs remain directly responsive to the unique operational requirements of the fire service. With direct control over the NFTI, the BFP will be better

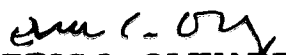
positioned to develop and implement curricula, set competency standards, and address training gaps in line with international best practices and the evolving needs of local communities.

At present, the NFTI's placement under the PPSC has led to structural and performance gaps resulting from differing institutional priorities and administrative frameworks. By vesting the BFP with full responsibility for its own training, the agency can independently formulate and execute plans, policies, and standards for advanced and specialized education in fire safety, emergency response, and disaster management.

This transfer also upholds the academic freedom of the NFTI, allowing it to determine its own teaching methodologies, curricula, and admission standards, thereby ensuring globally competitive and specialized training for BFP personnel and trainees.

The immediate passage of this bill will fully integrate and strengthen the BFP's training services, equipping the agency to meet modern challenges in fire protection, disaster risk reduction, and emergency response. It will foster a holistic, inclusive, and sustainable approach to fire service education and capability development, ultimately enhancing public safety and resilience in communities across the nation — in line with the country's long-term vision of a safe, secure, and disaster-resilient Philippines by 2040.

Hence, the passage of this bill 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. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "BFP National Fire Training Institute Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the existence of a highly professional, well-trained, and competent fire service force, capable of enforcing fire safety standards, effectively preventing and suppressing fires, investigating their causes, and responding promptly to all hazards and emergencies.

To achieve this, the State shall strengthen and modernize the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) by taking under its direct control the management, administration, and continuous development of its primary training institution. This approach shall guarantee the sustained enhancement of the BFP's human resource capabilities, the adoption of modern and internationally recognized fire safety practices, and the effective delivery of fire protection and emergency response services nationwide, in accordance with evolving community needs and global standards.

SECTION 3. Section 66 of Republic Act No. 6975, as amended by Section 3 of RA No. 11279, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 66. Creation of the Philippine Public Safety College. - There is hereby created the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC), which shall be the premier educational institution for the training, human resource development and continuing education of all personnel of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). The PPSC shall consist of the National Jail Management and Penology Training Institute, and other specialized institutes as may be created by law.

The National Fire Training Institute (NFTI), currently operating under the Philippine Public Safety College, is hereby transferred from the supervision and control of the PPSC to the direct management and administration of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP). The NFTI shall serve as the principal training arm of the BFP, primarily responsible for the conduct of mandatory training, specialized courses, and continuing education programs for all non-commissioned personnel of the Bureau.

SECTION 4. Section 67 of RA 6975, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 67. Composition, Powers and Functions. - The College shall consist of the National Police College, the National Forensic Science Training Institute, the National Jail Management and Penology Training Institute, and other special training centers as may be created by the Department, whose functions shall be as follows:

- (a) Formulate and implement training programs for all personnel of the Jail Bureau and other training centers under the Department;**
- (b) Formulate and implement select mandatory career courses for jail commissioned officers;**
- (c) Formulate and implement specialized courses for personnel of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology;**
- (d) Establish and maintain adequate physical training facilities;**
- e) Develop and implement research and development to support educational training programs;**
- (f) Conduct an assessment of the training needs of all its clientele; and**
- [g) Perform such other related functions as may be prescribed by the Secretary."**

SECTION 5. A new Section 67B is hereby inserted in the same Act, to read as follows:

"SEC. 67-B. National Fire Training Institute (NFTI). - The NFTI shall be the premier institution for fire service education, and the primary responsible for all mandatory training, specialized courses, and continuing education and development of all fire non-commissioned officers. The NFTI shall be under the direct administrative and operational supervision and control of the Chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)

The NFTI shall be headed by a Director with the rank of Fire Chief Superintendent, who shall be assisted by a Deputy Director with the rank of Fire Senior Superintendent. The NFTI shall have a Dean of Academics and a Commandant, both with the rank of Fire Senior Superintendent."

SECTION 6. Function of the National Fire Training Institute under BFP. The National Fire Training Institute (NFTI) shall have the following functions:

- (a) Develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive training programs for all BFP personnel; (DO)
- b) Formulate and conduct mandatory (DO) and specialized courses for the BFP personnel (DO)
- c) Formulate and implement training designs for volunteers, industrial workers, public safety sectors; (DO)
- (d) Conduct research and development on fire service training methodologies technologies, and curriculum enhancements
- (e) Establish and maintain training facilities, equipment, and resources;
- (f) Forge partnerships and collaborations with local and international fire service, organizations, academic institutions, and other relevant agencies;
- (g) Recommend policies and standards for BFP personnel training and development to the Chief, BFP;
- (h) Conduct assessment of training needs; (DO)
- (i) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to fulfill its mandate as the primary training institution of the BFP.

SECTION 7. A new Section 68-C is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 68-C. Transfer of Personnel and Properties to NFTI. - All BFP uniformed and non-uniformed personnel and all the properties, facilities, records, equipment, funds, choses in action, appropriations, rights, functions, liabilities, and other assets of the National Fire Training Institute (NFTI) are hereby transferred to the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP)."

SECTION 8. A new Section 68-D is hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 68-D. Transition from PPSC to NFTI. - (a) Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act. the Chief of the BFP shall submit the revised table of

organization and equipment and staffing pattern of the NFTI to the DILG, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) for approval. The revised table of organization and equipment and staffing pattern may include the reorganization and renaming of existing BFP training offices and units, and the realignment of functions as may be necessary;

(b) The uniformed and non-uniformed personnel of the NFTI shall be transferred from the PPSC to the BFP and shall continue to perform their duties and responsibilities and receive their corresponding salaries and benefits;

c) The BFP, PPSC, and NFTI shall jointly conduct an inventory of all the properties, facilities, records, equipment, funds, choses in action appropriations, rights, functions, liabilities, and other assets of the NFTI prior to their complete transfer to the BFP;

d) The Secretary of the DILG, the Chief, BFP, and the President of the PPSC shall formulate and implement a five (5) year transition plan to ensure the smooth transfer of the NFTI to the BFP."

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NFTI, in coordination with the Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Public Safety College, and Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 10. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the National Fire Training Institute under the Philippine Public Safety College. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 11. 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 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,