

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5756



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE ARNULF BRYAN “ARNIE” B. FUENTEBELLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed “BFP National Fire Training Institute Act” seeks to transfer the National Fire Training Institute (NFTI) from the Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) to the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), directly addressing persistent training and governance gaps that undermine the professionalization of the fire service. This realignment is designed to harmonize Republic Act No. 11589 (BFP Modernization Act) with Republic Act No. 9263 (BFP and BJMP Professionalization Act), and follows the successful precedent set by Republic Act No. 11279, which transferred the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) and National Police Training Institute (NPTI) from PPSC to the Philippine National Police (PNP) for sectoral alignment and operational coherence.

Republic Act No. 9263 declares the State’s policy to institutionalize highly efficient and competent fire and jail services, while Sections 3(h) and 4(e) of RA 11589 emphasize the BFP’s leadership in personnel development, training, and research. However, the current arrangement—where NFTI remains under PPSC—has resulted in material deficiencies, including inadequate equipment, dependence on BFP personnel for instruction, lack of specialized facilities, irregular training schedules, and bureaucratic delays in curriculum and procurement. These persistent issues demonstrate that third-party supervision fragments accountability and impedes the BFP’s ability to meet its operational mandate.

Transferring NFTI to the BFP will unify governance, streamline logistics, and synchronize training curricula with real-time operational needs, as demonstrated by the improvements in competency and readiness achieved by the PNP following the transfer of its training institutions under RA 11279. The bill empowers the BFP to design, implement, supervise, and evaluate all fire service training programs, enabling faster curriculum updates, standardized competencies, integrated support services, and the development of a bureau-wide competency framework. This centralization will also support a structured learning continuum, digital transformation of training delivery, and the establishment of a BFP Research and Innovation Center to drive doctrine development and curricular innovation in partnership with relevant agencies and institutions.

The bill adopts prudent transition mechanics modeled after RA 11279, including the transfer of personnel and assets, a 120-day submission of a revised table of organization and staffing pattern, a joint inventory, and a five-year transition plan to ensure an orderly and uninterrupted migration of functions. This measure is not a mere administrative reshuffle. It is a strategic, legal, and operational reform that harmonizes RA 11589 with RA 9263, adopts the proven RA 11279 template, and cures entrenched deficiencies in fire service training. By transferring the NFTI to the BFP, Congress will eliminate bureaucratic obstacles, strengthen institutional coherence, and equip the Bureau to save lives and protect property through a modern, efficient, and professional fire service.

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


ARNULF BRYAN “ARNIE” B. FUENTEBELLA
Representative
Fourth District, Camarines Sur

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5756

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ARNULF BRYAN “ARNIE” B. FUENTEBELLA**

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, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 the policy of the State to maintain a highly professional and competent fire service, capable of enforcing fire safety standards, preventing and suppressing fires, investigating their causes, and responding swiftly to emergencies. To achieve this, the State shall directly manage and continuously develop the Bureau of Fire Protection’s primary training institution, ensuring the ongoing capability building of its personnel, the adoption of modern and internationally recognized fire safety practices, and the effective delivery of fire protection and emergency 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 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 [~~PNP, Fire and Jail Bureaus~~] **THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY.**

THE NATIONAL FIRE TRAINING INSTITUTE (NFTI) IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE PPSC TO THE DIRECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION. 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 OF FIRE PROTECTION.

Said College shall be under the direct supervision of a Board of Trustees composed of the Secretary and the three (3) bureau heads. The NFTI shall be under the direct supervision by the

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

"SEC. 67. Composition, Powers and Functions. – The College shall consist of the present [~~Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) established pursuant to Section 13 of Presidential Decree No. 1184, the Fire Service Training Center~~], the Philippine National Training Center (PNTC), the National Police College, 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 the personnel of the Department;
- (b) Establish and maintain adequate physical training facilities;
- (c) Develop and implement research and development to support educational training programs;

(d) Conduct an assessment of the training needs of all its clientele; and

(e) Perform such other related functions as may be prescribed by the Secretary."

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

"SEC. 67-A. 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.

THE NFTI SHALL BE HEADED BY A DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF FIRE DIRECTOR, WHO SHALL BE ASSISTED BY A DEPUTY DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF FIRE CHIEF 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;

(b) FORMULATE AND CONDUCT MANDATORY AND SPECIALIZED COURSES FOR THE BFP PERSONNEL;

(c) FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT TRAINING DESIGNS FOR VOLUNTEERS, INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY SECTORS;

(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; AND

(i) PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO FULFILL ITS MANDATE AS THE PRIMARY TRAINING INSTITUTION OF BFP.

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

"SEC. 68-A. *TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL AND PROPERTIES.* – ALL BFP UNIFORMED AND NON-UNIFORMED PERSONNEL AND ALL THE PROPERTIES, FACILITIES, RECORDS, EQUIPMENT, FUNDS, CHOSSES 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-B is hereby inserted to read as follows:*

"SEC. 68-B. *Transition.* – (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 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 before 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, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Civil Service Commission, 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,