

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5757



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bureau of Fire Protection stands as the nation’s principal agency for fire prevention, suppression, investigation, and emergency response, forming a critical pillar of public safety and disaster resilience. In recent years, the operational scope and complexity of the BFP have expanded significantly, particularly with the enactment of Republic Act No. 11589 or the “Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act of 2021,” which mandates the enhancement of the Bureau’s capabilities, systems, and services to meet the demands of a modernizing society.

Despite these advances, the BFP’s internal rank classification and organizational structure remain governed by Sections 58 and 59 of Republic Act No. 6975, as amended, which have not kept pace with the Bureau’s evolving mandate. The absences of a fully rationalized command hierarchy modernized career pathways, and functional decentralization at the regional and field levels have constrained BFP’s ability to implement its modernization program effectively and to respond to the increasingly complex challenges of fire protection and emergency management.

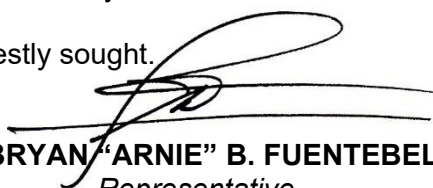
This legislative measure seeks to address these institutional gaps by establishing a rationalized, professionalized, and civilianized rank classification system for all BFP uniformed personnel. The proposed amendments introduce a tiered structure with clear lines of authority and responsibility across the national, regional, provincial, and station levels, ensuring that leadership and operational command are aligned with the Bureau’s expanded functions. Notably, the bill preserves the civilian character of the BFP by adopting traditional fire service rank nomenclature—from Fire Officer I to Fire Director General—eschewing military equivalents in recognition of the Bureau’s distinct identity and public service ethos.

In addition, the measure delineates key positions and command structures at every level of the organization, providing a framework for functional oversight, internal mobility, and career progression. These reforms are designed to enhance the delivery of fire protection services nationwide, promote merit-based advancement, and strengthen leadership and accountability throughout the Bureau.

This proposal is the product of extensive consultation and consensus-building within the BFP, reflecting the institutional intent and unified commitment of its leadership and personnel to modernize and professionalize the organization. It is substantially aligned with the objectives of Senate Bill No. 2586 of the 19th Congress, which sought a unified rank classification system for all DILG uniformed bureaus, but departs from that measure by maintaining the BFP’s civilian rank structure and amending the Bureau’s enabling statute, RA 6975, rather than RA 9263.

In sum, this bill represents a decisive step toward a more responsive, efficient, and professional Bureau of Fire Protection, fully equipped to safeguard lives and property in a rapidly changing environment. Its passage will ensure that the BFP’s internal systems and structures are fully aligned with its modernization and public safety mandate.

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. 5757

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

AN ACT

RATIONALIZING THE RANK CLASSIFICATION AND STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'DILG ACT OF 1990', AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 58 of Republic Act No. 6975, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"Section 58. Rank Classification. - For purposes of ~~[efficient]~~ **EFFICIENCY, CLARITY OF** administration, supervision, and control, the rank classification of the members of the ~~[Fire Bureau]~~ **BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION** shall be as follows:

- FIRE DIRECTOR GENERAL**
- FIRE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL**
- ~~[Director]~~ **FIRE DIRECTOR**
- ~~[Chief Superintendent]~~ **FIRE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT**
- ~~[Senior Superintendent]~~ **FIRE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT**
- ~~[Superintendent]~~ **FIRE SUPERINTENDENT**
- ~~[Chief Inspector]~~ **FIRE CHIEF INSPECTOR**

~~[Senior Inspector]~~ **FIRE SENIOR INSPECTOR**

~~[Inspector]~~ **FIRE INSPECTOR**

Senior Fire Officer IV

Senior Fire Officer III

Senior Fire Officer II

Senior Fire Officer I

Fire Officer III

Fire Officer II

Fire Officer I

SECTION 2. Section 59 of Republic Act No. 6975, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"Section 59. Key Positions. The head of the ~~[Fire Bureau]~~ **BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION** with the rank of ~~[director]~~ **FIRE DIRECTOR GENERAL** shall have the position title of ~~[Chief of the Fire Bureau]~~ **CHIEF OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION.** ~~[He]~~ **HE OR SHE** shall be assisted by ~~[a deputy chief with the rank of chief superintendent]~~ **TWO (2) DEPUTIES WITH THE RANK OF FIRE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL.**

~~[The assistant heads of the Department's regional offices with the rank of senior superintendent shall assume the position title of Assistant Regional Director for Fire Protection as provided in Section 11 of this Act; the heads of the NCR district offices with the rank of senior superintendent shall have the position title of District Fire Marshall; the heads of the provincial offices with the rank of superintendent shall be known as Provincial Fire Marshall; the heads of the district offices with the rank of chief inspector shall have the position title of District Fire Marshall; and the heads of the municipal or city stations with the rank of senior inspector shall be known as Chief of Municipal/City Fire Station.]~~

SECTION 2. The remaining 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", and Republic Act No. 11589, otherwise known as the

“Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act”, shall remain in full force and effect. Provisions that have reference to the rank classification, organization, and key positions, appointment, lateral entry, professionalization and upgrading of qualification standards in the designation in the key positions, force restructuring and organizational development, and standardization of the base pay, retirement and other benefits of the uniformed personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection, and all other laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed modified or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 3. Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chief of the Bureau of Fire Protection, in consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Budget and Management, the Civil Service Commission, and other appropriate government agencies, shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. In view of the amendments to Sections 58 and 59 of RA 6975, as amended, the DILG, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission and the Department of Budget and Management, shall implement the necessary transition and adjustment within the organizational structure of the Bureau of Fire Protection within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,