

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

20th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6137



Introduced by: **REP. MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fire is both a hazard, a potential source of danger, and a threat, an actual risk to life, property, and the environment. It arises from unsafe conditions and, when uncontrolled, can cause devastating consequences.

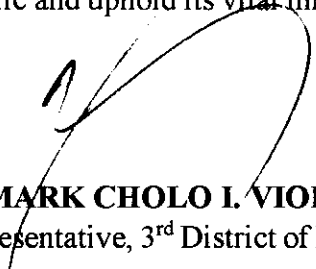
The Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008 or Republic Act No. 9514, stands as a cornerstone of the nation's commitment to public safety, economic development, and the professionalization of the fire service. Since its enactment, the Code has provided a comprehensive framework for fire prevention, suppression, and the enforcement of safety standards across the country. However, the rapid pace of urbanization, the emergence of new economic and industrial zones, technological advancements, and the increasing complexity of fire hazards have exposed regulatory gaps and operational challenges that must now be addressed.

The current Fire Code (Republic Act 9514, enacted in 2008) replaced Presidential Decree 1185 from 1977. While it was a major improvement, many of its provisions are now outdated given rapid urbanization, new building materials, and modern fire hazards. Upgrading the Fire Code of the Philippines is necessary to address modern challenges in fire safety, adapt to new technologies, and strengthen public protection against increasingly complex fire risks. Fire incidents remain a major threat to lives and property. Strengthening the code ensures better prevention, faster response, and reduced casualties. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) emphasizes that compliance with updated standards is essential for safeguarding communities.

This proposed measure seeks to update and strengthen the Fire Code to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness in safeguarding lives, property, and critical infrastructure. The bill expands the applicability of the law to encompass all persons, buildings, facilities, and structures—including those situated within economic zones, information technology parks, tourism zones, and other special entities—as well as vehicles, ships, petroleum installations, airports, and other high-risk areas. By closing existing regulatory gaps, the measure ensures that all sectors, particularly those with heightened fire risks, are subject to uniform and robust fire safety standards.

Recognizing the need for adequate resources to fulfill its mandate, the bill modernizes the funding mechanisms of the BFP by introducing new sources of income, including fees for the issuance of clearances assessed based on floor area and hazard level. The revenues generated from these mechanisms will directly support the continuous upgrading of the BFP's manpower, infrastructure, and equipment. By strengthening its operational capacity, the BFP will be better positioned to respond effectively to the evolving landscape of fire risks brought about by rapid urbanization, technological advancements, and the increasing complexity of modern structures.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought to ensure that the BFP is adequately equipped to protect the public and uphold its vital mission of fire safety.



MARK CHOLO I. VIOLAGO
Representative, 3rd District of Bulacan

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**AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 4 AND 12 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT 9514,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 2008"**

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9514 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 4. Applicability of the Code. The provisions of the Fire Code shall apply to all persons and all private and public buildings, facilities or structures erected or constructed before and after its effectivity including those that are classified as economic zone, agro-industrial economic, free ports and special economic zone, Information Technology (IT) parks and centers, tourism economic zones, and other similar entities.

SECTION 2. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9514 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. Appropriation and Sources of Income. —

- a. To support the manpower, infrastructure and equipment needs of the fire service of the BFP, such amount as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the Fire Code shall be appropriated and included in the annual appropriation of the BFP.
- b. To partially provide for the funding of the fire service, the following taxes and fees which shall accrue to the general fund of the National Government, are hereby imposed:

- (1) Fees to be charged. for the issuance of certificates, permits and licenses as provided for in Section 7(a) hereof;

- (2) One-tenth of one per centum (0.1%) of the verified estimated value of buildings or structures to be erected, from the owner thereof, one half to be paid prior to the issuance of the building permit, and the balance, after final inspection and prior to the issuance of the occupancy permit;

- (3) One-hundredth of one per centum. (0.10%) of the assessed -value of buildings or structures annually payable upon payment of the real estate tax, except on structures used as single family dwellings;

(4) Two per centum (2%) of all premiums, excluding reinsurance premiums for the sale of fire, earthquake and explosion hazard insurance collected by companies, persons or agents licensed to sell such insurances in the Philippines;

(5) Two per centum (2%) of gross sales of companies, persons or agents selling firefighting equipment, appliances or devices, including hazard detection and warning systems; and

(6) Two per centum (2%) of the service fees received from fire, earthquake, and explosion hazard reinsurance surveys and post loss service of insurance adjustment companies doing business in the Philippines directly through agents.

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government shall issue the rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause.

If any provision of this Act is declared constitutional or invalid, the other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause.

All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulation, or parts therefor, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. 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,