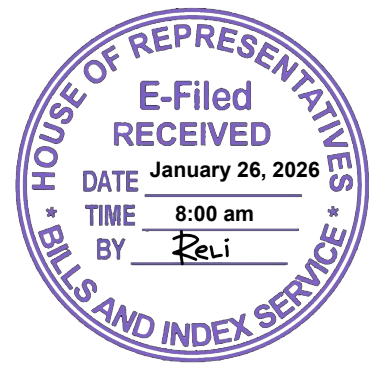


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 7276

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is currently facing a myriad of population and development issues, which include issues on responsible parenthood, family planning, youth development, among others.

The second paragraph of Section 488 (A) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as "The Local Government Code of 1991" provides:

"The appointment of a population officer shall be optional in the local government unit: Provided, however, That provinces and cities which have existing population offices shall continue to maintain such offices for a period of five (5) years from the date of effectivity of this Code, after which said offices shall become optional."

The Supreme Court of the Philippines, in the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling (G.R. No. 199802. July 03, 2018) has affirmed the principle of fiscal autonomy for LGUs, empowering them with greater responsibilities in addressing local development and well-being, which includes population and development concerns.

To be able to address the population and development issues and to be able to make LGUs more responsive to the needs of the times, this bill seeks to mandate that appointment of a population offices in LGUs. Each LGU needs a permanent population officer in order for them to have a focal person or action officer for the implementation of strategies related to the program on population and family planning at the local level. The population officer will also be the one to ensure that population management strategies are effectively implemented in the respective locality.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 488 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991", TO MANDATE THE APPOINTMENT OF POPULATION OFFICERS IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES

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

Section 1. Section 488 (A) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "The Local Government Code of 1991" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 488. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. – (a) No person shall be appointed population officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree with specialized training in population development from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have experience in the implementation of programs on population development or responsible parenthood for at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial or city population officer, and three (3) years in the case of the municipal population officer.

[The appointment of a population officer shall be optional in the local government unit: Provided, however, That provinces and cities which have existing population offices shall continue to maintain such offices for a period of five (5) years from the date of effectivity of this Code, after which said offices shall become optional.]

THE APPOINTMENT OF A POPULATION OFFICER IS MANDATORY FOR PROVINCIAL AND CITY GOVERNMENTS, AND OPTIONAL FOR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT."

Section 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,