

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7558



Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP and EDVIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create a rationalized and professionalized rank classification system for all Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) personnel. This shall strengthen and modernize the internal structure of the BFP in line with the demands of its expanding mandate.

The BFP has long served as one of the country's frontline institutions for public safety, preventing and suppressing destructive fires, responding to emergencies, and saving lives during disasters. With the passage of Republic Act No. 11589, or the "*BFP Modernization Act of 2021*", the Bureau has taken on broader and more complex responsibilities that require a more responsive, professional, and clearly defined organizational framework. However, the provisions governing its rank classification and command structure have remained largely unchanged since 1990.

As a result, the Bureau continues to operate under a system that no longer reflects the realities faced by modern fire officers and emergency responders. The absence of an updated vertical command structure, rational career pathways, and functional decentralization has slowed the effective rollout of modernization efforts and limited the Bureau's ability to maximize its growing capabilities. Ultimately, this affects the lives of the very people the BFP serves, families relying on timely rescue, communities vulnerable to fire incidents, and local governments that depend on strong coordination with their fire stations.

This proposed measure responds directly to these gaps by creating a new structure that lays out clear lines of authority from the national headquarters down to regional, provincial, city, and municipal stations. It provides coherence between leadership roles and field operations, ensuring that responsibility is carried by officials whose training, expertise, and rank are suited to the demands of their position.

This vital piece of legislation reflects the collective vision and institutional sentiment of the BFP, representing a commitment to the firefighters and emergency responders who risk their lives to protect our communities.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP



HON. EDVIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE RANK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 58 AND 59 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990," AND FOR 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 (RA) No. 6975, otherwise known as the "*Department of Interior and Local Government Act of 1990*", is hereby amended to read as follows:

*"Section 58. Rank Classification. — For purposes of **CLARITY OF COMMAND AND RESPONSIBILITY, AND FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND** efficient administration, supervision, and control **OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION,** the rank classification of the members of the Fire Bureau shall be as follows:*

1. **FIRE Director GENERAL;**
2. **FIRE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL;**
3. **FIRE DIRECTOR;**
4. **FIRE Chief Superintendent;**
5. **FIRE Senior Superintendent;**
6. **FIRE Superintendent;**
7. **FIRE Chief Inspector;**

8. FIRE Senior Inspector;
9. FIRE INSPECTOR;

10. Senior Fire Officer IV;

11. Senior Fire Officer III;

12. Senior Fire Officer II;

13. Senior Fire Officer I;

14. Fire Officer III;

15. Fire Officer II; AND

16. Fire Officer I

THE RANK CLASSIFICATIONS HEREIN PROVIDED SHALL BE USED FOR ALL PURPOSES RELATED TO COMMAND, PROMOTION, AND OTHER CAREER-RELATED ADVANCEMENTS OF PERSONNEL IN THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, AS WELL AS FOR THE GENERAL SUPERVISION AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES AND DISASTERS. THE RANK STRUCTURE SHALL BE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY TO ENSURE ALIGNMENT WITH THE OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF THE BUREAU."

SEC. 2. Section 59 of RA No. 6975, otherwise known as the "*Department of Interior and Local Government Act of 1990*", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 59. Key Positions. – The head of the Fire Bureau with the rank of FIRE director GENERAL (FDG) shall have the position title of Chief of the Fire Bureau. He/SHE shall be assisted by [a] TWO (2) deputy chiefS: ONE (1) FOR ADMINISTRATION, AND ONE (1) FOR OPERATIONS, BOTH with the rank of FIRE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL (FDDG) [chief superintendent]. ALL OF WHOM SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM AMONG THE QUALIFIED OFFICERS WITH AT LEAST THE RANK OF FIRE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT (FCSUPT) IN THE SERVICE: PROVIDED, THAT IN NO CASE SHALL ANY OFFICER WHO HAS RETIRED OR IS RETIRABLE, WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM HIS/HER COMPULSORY RETIREMENT AGE, BE

APPOINTED AS CHIEF OF THE FIRE BUREAU, AS THE CASE MAY BE: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE CHIEF OF THE FIRE BUREAU SHALL SERVE A TOUR OF DUTY NOT TO EXCEED THREE (3) YEARS: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT IN TIMES OF WAR OR OTHER NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED BY CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT MAY EXTEND SUCH TOUR OF DUTY.

“AT THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, OFFICERS [The assistant heads of the Department’s regional offices] with the rank of FIRE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL (FDDG), [senior superintendent] shall HAVE [assume] the position title of [Assistant Regional] CHIEF DirectorIAL STAFF (CDS), WHO [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 BE ASSISTED BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE VARIOUS DIRECTORATES IN THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, EACH WITH [have] the [position title of District] RANK OF Fire [Marshal; the heads of the provincial offices with the rank of superintendent shall be known as Provincial Fire Marshal; the heads of the district offices with the rank of chief inspector shall have the position title of District Fire Marshal; and the heads of the municipal of city stations with the rank of senior inspector shall be known as Chief of Municipal/City Fire Station] DIRECTOR.

“THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION SHALL CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS IN EACH ADMINISTRATIVE REGION OF THE COUNTRY. EACH REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS SHALL BE HEADED BY A REGIONAL DIRECTOR, WHO SHALL BE ASSISTED BY THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS: THE DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION, THE DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, AND THE REGIONAL CHIEF OF STAFF.

“NCR SHALL BE HEADED BY A REGIONAL DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF FIRE DIRECTOR, THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION SHALL ESTABLISH DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, EACH HEADED BY A DISTRICT DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF FIRE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT. EACH DISTRICT SHALL HAVE SUBORDINATE FIRE STATIONS THAT SHALL BE HEADED BY A CITY DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT, CITY FIRE CHIEF WITH THE RANK OF SUPERINTENDENT, OR A STATION COMMANDER WITH

THE RANK OF FIRE CHIEF INSPECTOR DEPENDING ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT'S CLASSIFICATION.

"AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL, THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION SHALL ESTABLISH PROVINCIAL HEADQUARTERS HEADED BY A PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR. THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE BUREAU'S POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS MONITORING, EVALUATING, AND COORDINATING FIRE SERVICE OPERATIONS ACROSS ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE PROVINCE.

"FIRE STATIONS IN HIGHLY URBANIZED CITIES SHALL BE HEADED BY A CITY DIRECTOR WITH THE RANK OF FIRE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT (FSSUPT).

"IN OTHER CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, FIRE STATIONS SHALL BE HEADED BY A CITY FIRE CHIEF WITH THE RANK OF FIRE SUPERINTENDENT (FSUPT), OR A MUNICIPAL FIRE CHIEF WITH THE RANK OF FIRE CHIEF INSPECTOR (FCINSP), RESPECTIVELY, BASED ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT'S CLASSIFICATION."

SEC. 3. *Transitory Provisions.* – In view of the amendments to Sections 58 and 59 of RA No. 6975, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall implement necessary transitions and adjustments within the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), including the reclassification of positions and ranks within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DILG, in consultation with the BFP and Civil Service Commission, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act to ensure the proper implementation of the provisions herein.

SEC. 5. *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.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of RA No. 6975, as amended by RA No. 9263, otherwise known as the "*Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004*", shall remain in full force and effect, except those specifically pertaining to rank reclassification and organizational structure of the BFP, which are hereby amended or modified accordingly by this Act. Any other laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,