

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7820**



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) stands as a critical pillar in safeguarding the lives and property of the Filipino people against the ever-present threats of fire and related emergencies. Over the years, the BFP's operational landscape has evolved, with increasing demands for rapid response, specialized expertise, and effective command structures. However, the current rank classification and organizational framework, as provided under *Republic Act No. 6975* and its subsequent amendments, have not kept pace with the Bureau's expanding mandate and the complexities of modern fire service.

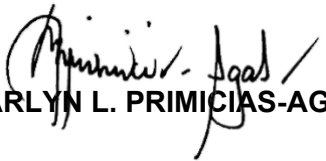
This bill seeks to address these gaps by instituting a clear and responsive rank classification system for the BFP. The proposed amendments to *Sections 58 and 59 of Republic Act No. 6975* are designed to clarify the chain of command, delineate responsibilities, and provide a robust structure for career progression and leadership development within the Bureau.

The bill introduces a comprehensive rank structure, from Fire Director General down to Fire Officer I, ensuring that each level of command is well-defined and aligned with the operational needs of the BFP. This structure is intended to foster professionalism, merit-based advancement, and accountability, while also supporting the Bureau's capacity to respond effectively to emergencies and disasters across the country. Furthermore, the bill rationalizes the key positions within the BFP, from the national headquarters down to the regional, provincial, and local levels. The bill also provides for the establishment of regional and district headquarters, in line with the principles of decentralization and local autonomy.

The proposed measure is consistent with the State's policy to professionalize and modernize the country's fire service, as originally enshrined in *Republic Act No. 6975* and further supported by subsequent legislation. It draws from the lessons of recent jurisprudence, which underscore the importance of proper rank classification and eligibility in ensuring the effective administration of

the BFP, as seen in *Claveria vs. Civil Service Commission*, G.R. No. 245457, December 9, 2020.

In sum, the passage of this bill will empower the BFP to fulfill its mandate with greater efficiency, professionalism, and responsiveness, ultimately enhancing public safety and disaster resilience in the Philippines.



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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND RANK
CLASSIFICATION 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. Title- This Act shall be known as the “BFP Organizational Strengthening and Rank Classification Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. Section 58 of Republic Act No. 6975 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 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**
- 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."

SECTION 3. Section 59 of Republic Act No. 6975 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, Bureau of Fire Protection. He/she shall be assisted by 2 deputy chiefs, one (1) for Administration and one (1) for Operations, both with the rank of **Fire Deputy Director General (FDDG)**. All of whom shall be appointed by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of the DILG 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, with the rank of Fire Deputy Director General (FDDG), shall have the position title of Chief Directorial Staff (CDS), who shall be assisted by the Directors of the various Directorates in the National Headquarters (NHQ), each with the rank of Fire Director.

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) 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.

National Capital Region (NCR) shall be headed by a Regional Director with the rank of Fire Director, the BFP 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 SSUPT, City Fire Chief with the rank of SUPT, or a Station Commander with the rank of Fire Chief Inspector** depending on the local government unit's classification.

At the **provincial level**, the BFP shall establish a **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 (HUCs) 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, as appropriate based on the local government unit's classification.

Section 4. Repealing Clause. – All 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”, shall remain in full force and effect, except those specifically pertaining to rank reclassification and organizational structure of the Bureau of Fire Protection, 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.

SECTION 5. Transitory Provisions. In view of the amendments to Sections 58 and 59 of Republic Act No. 6975, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall implement necessary transitions and adjustments within the Bureau of Fire Protection, including the reclassification of positions and ranks within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation with the Bureau of Fire Protection 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

SECTION 7. 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 9. 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,