

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7821

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The protection of life and property from the dangers of fire is a fundamental responsibility of the State. *Republic Act No. 9514*, known as the "*Revised Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008*," was enacted to establish a comprehensive framework for fire prevention, safety, and the professionalization of the fire service. The law reflects the policy of the State to ensure public safety and promote economic development by preventing and suppressing destructive fires, as well as by promoting accountability in fire protection and prevention services (*Section 2, R.A. No. 9514*).

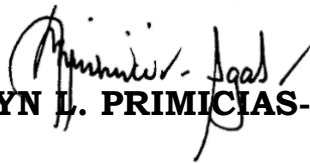
In recent years, the country has witnessed significant growth in the number of economic zones, information technology parks, tourism hubs, and other specialized developments. These areas have become vital engines of economic activity and employment. However, the current text of the *Fire Code* does not expressly mention these zones, which may lead to uncertainty regarding the full applicability of fire safety regulations within their boundaries.

This bill seeks to amend *Section 4* of *R.A. No. 9514* to make it clear that the *Fire Code* applies to all persons and all private and public buildings, facilities, or structures, regardless of whether they are located within economic zones, agro-industrial areas, free ports, information technology parks, tourism economic zones, or similar entities. By doing so, the bill aims to remove any ambiguity and ensure that fire safety standards are uniformly enforced throughout the country, including in areas that are critical to national development.

Meanwhile, the proposed amendment to *Section 12* of *R.A. No. 9514* addresses the need for a sustainable and transparent funding mechanism for the Bureau of Fire Protection. By removing the cap on the fee based on the estimated value of buildings or structures to be erected, the bill allows the BFP to collect fees that are more proportionate to the scale and value of modern developments. This change is intended to provide the BFP with the resources necessary to fulfill its expanding mandate, as envisioned by both the *Fire Code* (*R.A.*

No. 9514) and the *BFP Modernization Act* (R.A. No. 11589). The imposition of specific fees and levies on insurance premiums, sales of firefighting equipment, and related services is consistent with the principle that those who benefit from fire protection and risk mitigation should contribute to the system's sustainability.

In summary, this measure responds to the evolving needs of Philippine society by ensuring that all communities and enterprises are covered by fire safety laws, and by strengthening the capacity of the Bureau of Fire Protection to deliver its essential services. The approval of this bill is respectfully sought.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7821

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

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTIONS 4 AND 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9514, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “REVISED FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES OF 2008”, TO EXPAND ITS APPLICABILITY AND UPDATE THE SOURCES OF INCOME FOR THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION

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,