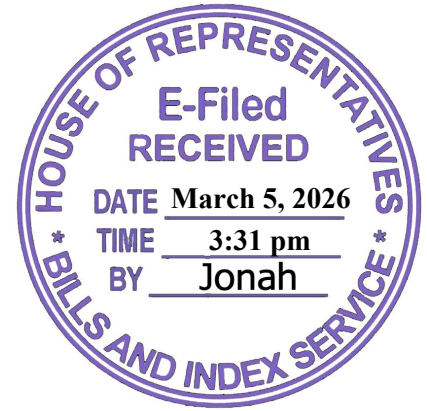


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8324



INTRODUCED BY REP. PATRICK MICHAEL D. VARGAS

AN ACT
MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF FIREHOSE BOXES IN EVERY
150SQM OF AREAS WITHIN BARANGAY SAN AGUSTIN OF DISTRICT V,
QUEZON CITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State provides that it shall ensure public safety, promote economic development through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires as well as enforce all laws, rules, and regulations to ensure adherence to standard fire prevention and safety measures, and promote accountability in the fire protection and prevention service.

As such, the Fire Code of the Philippines, otherwise known as Republic Act (RA) 9514, was enacted, as well as RA 11589, or the "Bureau of Fire Protection Modernization Act", to ensure that the public is protected from fire-related incidents.

In 2022, however, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) reported over 13,000 fire incidents for the year, with instances notably high during the Christmas season due to fires caused by fireworks and firecrackers.

A consultation with the BFP National Capital Region Director and the District V Fire Bureau officers revealed that many fire occurrences are not immediately stopped because fire trucks frequently cannot fit in narrow alleys in numerous densely inhabited areas of the Barangays. Meanwhile, these areas are usually rather prone to fires due to the use of lightweight and easily combustible building materials.

To address the District firefighters' predicament, this measure proposes the establishment of firehose boxes within 150sqm distance across Barangay

San Agustin, Quezon City. The firehose boxes in the barangay are a means of providing a quicker response in the event of fire incidents, particularly in neighborhoods with narrow alleys.

The proposed measure not only intends to improve public safety and disaster response at the barangay level but also to ultimately save precious lives.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PM', is positioned above the printed name of the representative.

REP. PATRICK MICHAEL D. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “*Fire-Proof Barangay San Agustin Act*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to ensure public safety, promote economic development through the prevention and suppression of all kinds, of destructive fires, and promote the professionalization of the fire service as a profession. Towards this end, the State shall enforce all laws, rules, and regulations to ensure adherence to standard fire prevention and safety measures and promote accountability in the fire protection and prevention service.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the following words and phrases shall be defined as follows:

- a. Firehose- a specialized high-pressure hose that carries water or other fire retardants (such as foam) to a fire to extinguish it and is normally attached to either a fire engine, fire hydrant, or portable fire pump;
- b. Firehose box- a box that shall contain a firehose and shall be installed at a conspicuous area within the barangays’ neighborhood;

SECTION 4. *Establishment of Firehose Boxes in Barangay San Agustin, Quezon City.* There shall be established a firehose box in every 150 square meter area in Barangay San Agustin, Quezon City, that shall be installed in conspicuous areas such as walls of dwellings or concrete walls of buildings. These firehoses shall serve as water pipelines for fire control and safety.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and other relevant agencies, and with the participation of the Sangguniang Barangay of San Agustin, Quezon City, shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Funding.* The amount needed for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's available appropriation of DILG. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the portions or provisions that are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to, or inconsistent with, this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,