

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8679



Introduced by Hon. Kenneth T. Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fire incidents continue to pose serious threats to lives, homes, and livelihoods in many communities across the country. Dense residential areas, limited access roads, inadequate fire prevention awareness, and delayed response times often allow small fires to escalate into major disasters.

While the Bureau of Fire Protection plays a central role in fire suppression and prevention, the first line of defense against fires often lies within the community itself. In many cases, neighbors, volunteers, and barangay officials are the first to respond before professional firefighters arrive.

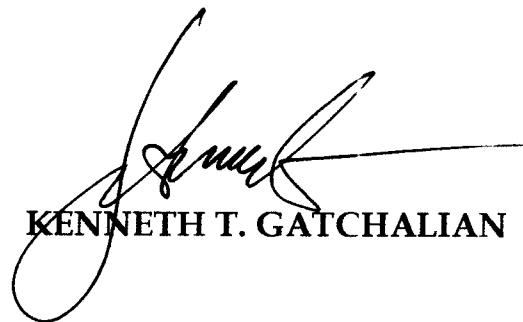
Strengthening community preparedness and equipping barangays with the knowledge, training, and basic tools necessary to prevent and respond to fires can significantly reduce damage and save lives.

This measure seeks to institutionalize a Community Fire Resilience Program that will establish trained Barangay Fire Brigades, strengthen fire

safety education, promote regular community fire drills, and provide essential fire prevention equipment at the barangay level.

By empowering communities to become proactive partners in fire prevention and emergency response, this bill aims to create safer and more resilient neighborhoods nationwide.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED FIRE PREVENTION
AND RESPONSE MECHANISMS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
BARANGAY FIRE BRIGADES, FIRE SAFETY TRAINING, AND
COMMUNITY FIRE RESILIENCE PROGRAMS IN ALL BARANGAYS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Community*
2 *Fire Resilience Act.*”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to:

- 5 a. Protect lives, properties, and communities from fire hazards;
6 b. Strengthen community participation in fire prevention and
7 emergency response;
8 c. Promote fire safety awareness and preparedness at the grassroots
9 level; and
10 d. Support and complement the efforts of the Bureau of Fire
11 Protection through community-based fire prevention initiatives.

1 **SEC. 3. *Establishment of Barangay Fire Brigades.*** – All barangays
2 nationwide shall establish and maintain a Barangay Fire Brigade (BFB) composed
3 of trained community volunteers.

4 The Barangay Fire Brigade shall:

- 5 a. Assist in fire prevention education and awareness campaigns;
- 6 b. Serve as the first responders during fire incidents until the arrival
7 of firefighters;
- 8 c. Assist in evacuation and emergency response; and
- 9 d. Coordinate with the nearest fire station of the Bureau of Fire
10 Protection.

11 The barangay captain shall designate a Barangay Fire Brigade Coordinator
12 who shall supervise and organize the brigade.

13 **SEC. 4. *Training and Capacity Building.*** – The Bureau of Fire Protection,
14 in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government and
15 Local Government Units, shall conduct regular training programs for Barangay
16 Fire Brigades, including:

- 17 a. Basic firefighting techniques;
- 18 b. Fire prevention and hazard identification;
- 19 c. Evacuation procedures and emergency response;
- 20 d. Use of firefighting equipment; and
- 21 e. Basic life support and first aid.

22 **SEC. 5. *Community Fire Drills.*** – All barangays shall conduct at least
23 one (1) community-wide fire drill annually under the supervision of the Bureau of
24 Fire Protection.

25 Schools, community organizations, and homeowners' associations shall be
26 encouraged to participate in such drills.

1 **SEC. 6. *Provision of Basic Firefighting Equipment.*** – Each barangay shall
2 maintain basic firefighting equipment, which may include:

- 3 a. Portable fire extinguishers;
- 4 b. Fire hoses and water pumps, where feasible;
- 5 c. Personal protective equipment for brigade members; and
- 6 d. Other equipment may be determined by the Bureau of Fire
7 Protection.

8 Priority shall be given to barangays identified as high fire-risk
9 areas.

10 **SEC. 7. *Community Fire Safety Education.*** – The Bureau of Fire
11 Protection, in coordination with the Department of Education and local
12 government units, shall implement community-based fire safety education
13 programs, including information campaigns on:

- 14 a. Fire hazard prevention in homes and communities;
- 15 b. Safe electrical and cooking practices;
- 16 c. Emergency preparedness and evacuation procedures.

17 **SEC. 8. *Incentives for Volunteer Fire Brigade Members.*** – Barangay Fire
18 Brigade volunteers may receive:

- 19 a. Training certifications;
- 20 b. Insurance coverage during official duty; and
- 21 c. Allowances or incentives subject to availability of funds and
22 existing laws.

23 **SEC. 9. *Funding.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
24 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the implementing
25 agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the
26 annual General Appropriations Act.

27 Local government units may also allocate funds from their disaster risk
28 reduction and management funds to support the implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days
2 from the effectivity of this Act, the Bureau of Fire Protection, in coordination with
3 the Department of the Interior and Local Government and other relevant agencies,
4 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
5 implementation of this Act

6 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is held
7 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall
8 remain in full force and effect.

9 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, presidential
10 decrees or issuances, letter of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and
11 regulations as well as local ordinances contrary to or inconsistent with the
12 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

13 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general
15 circulation.

Approved,