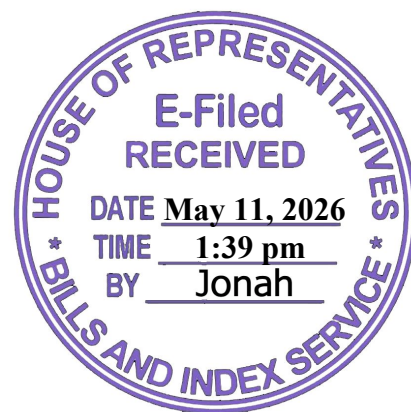


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9174



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fire is a hazard that does not discriminate, but its impact is felt most acutely at the grassroots level. In the Philippines, the density of our communities—particularly in urban areas—often means that by the time a fire truck maneuvers through narrow alleys and traffic, a small kitchen fire has already become a neighborhood-wide conflagration.

While the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) remains our primary line of defense, the "Golden Hour" of fire suppression belongs to the people on the ground. Statistics consistently show that the first few minutes of a fire are the most critical. Currently, many barangays lack the formal organization, equipment, and training to handle these initial moments effectively.

This bill seeks to institutionalize Community-Based Fire Prevention and Response by mandating the creation of Barangay Fire Brigades in every barangay, ensuring that a disciplined, trained team of volunteers is ready to act before the professional engines arrive.

By empowering the barangay, we are not just adding "more firefighters"; we are building a culture of vigilance. We are transforming our citizens from potential victims into active first responders.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9174

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines
in Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Barangay Fire Resilience Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to prioritize the safety of its citizens and protect their property from the destructive effects of fire. Recognizing that the barangay is the primary political unit of the government, the State shall strengthen local capabilities to prevent, respond to, and recover from fire incidents through organized community participation.

SEC. 3. *Establishment of Barangay Fire Brigades.*

Every barangay is hereby mandated to establish a Barangay Fire Brigade (BFB). The BFB shall be composed of volunteer residents who are physically fit and have undergone the required training.

- **Composition:** The BFB shall be headed by a Barangay Fire Marshal (appointed by the Punong Barangay) and shall consist of at least ten (10) members for every 2,000 residents.
- **Functions:** The BFB shall serve as the initial response unit, conduct regular neighborhood fire patrols, and assist the BFP during large-scale operations.

SEC. 4. *Mandatory Fire Safety Training.*

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall design and implement a mandatory Fire Safety Training Program for all BFB members.

- Curriculum: Training shall include basic firefighting techniques, Search and Rescue (SAR), first aid, and crowd control.
- Certification: No volunteer shall be deployed without a Certificate of Competency issued by the BFP.

SEC. 5. *Community Fire Resilience Programs.*

The Barangay Council, through the BFB, shall implement a Community Fire Resilience Program which includes:

- Hazard Mapping: Identifying high-risk areas such as informal settlements and industrial zones within the barangay.
- Fire Drills: Conducting quarterly fire and evacuation drills for all residents.
- Fire Audits: Assisting homeowners in identifying electrical hazards and flammable storage risks.

SEC. 6. *Equipment and Support.*

The Local Government Unit (LGU) and the BFP shall provide every barangay with basic firefighting equipment, which may include but is not limited to:

- Portable fire pumps and hoses.
- Fire extinguishers (Class A, B, and C).
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers.
- Communication radios.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DILG and the BFP. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). A portion of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) shall also be allocated for the maintenance of BFB equipment.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*

Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, in consultation with the BFP and the League of Barangays, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *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. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,