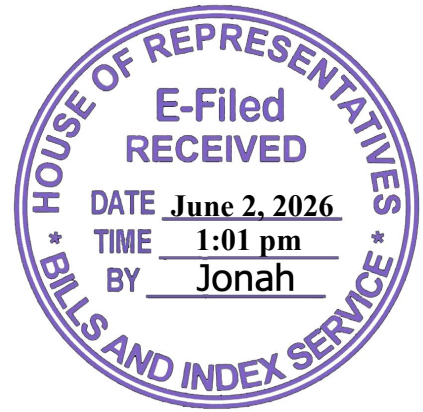


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9645**



Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines remains highly vulnerable to typhoons, earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and other natural and human-induced disasters that place communities at risk and disrupt the delivery of essential government services. In times of calamity, the swift declaration of a state of calamity is crucial in order to immediately mobilize government resources, facilitate rescue and relief operations, and ensure the timely delivery of assistance to affected communities.

Under existing law, the declaration of a state of calamity in local government units requires action by the local Sanggunian upon recommendation of the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC). However, in actual emergency situations, convening the Sanggunian and securing the necessary quorum and approval may cause delays at a time when immediate government response is urgently needed.

Therefore, this bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10121 by authorizing the local chief executive to declare a state of calamity within the local government unit upon recommendation of the LDRRMC. By streamlining the declaration process, government agencies and local officials will be able to respond more rapidly and efficiently during emergencies and disaster situations.

In effect, this measure should strengthen disaster response mechanisms, improve the delivery of emergency assistance, and protect the welfare and safety of communities affected by calamities and disasters.

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


ATTY. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.
Representative
Second District, Province of Sorsogon

Twentieth Congress of the
Republic of the Philippines
First Regular Session

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9645

Introduced by **Rep. MANUEL “WOWO” L. FORTES, JR.**

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121, AND TRANSFERRING
THE POWER TO DECLARE A STATE OF CALAMITY IN A LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNIT TO THE LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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

SEC. 1. Section 16 of Republic Act Numbered 10121 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 16. Declaration of State of Calamity. - The National Council shall recommend to the President of the Philippines the declaration of a cluster of barangays, municipalities, cities, provinces, and regions under a state of calamity, and the lifting thereof, based on the criteria set by the National Council. The President's declaration may warrant international humanitarian assistance as deemed necessary.

“The declaration and lifting of the state of calamity may also be issued by the local CHIEF EXECUTIVE [sanggunian], or any official acting in such capacity, upon the recommendation of the LDRPMC, based on the results of the damage assessment and needs analysis. THE DECLARATION MAY BE LIFTED AT ANY TIME BY THE LOCAL SANGGUNIAN.”

SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,