

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9739



Introduced by Representative Jaime R. Fresnedi

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Laguna de Bay is the country's largest inland body of water and remains one of the most important ecological, economic, and social resources in the Philippines. It serves as a source of livelihood for thousands of fisherfolk, supports agricultural and industrial activities, provides water resources for surrounding communities, and plays a critical role in flood mitigation and environmental sustainability across the Laguna Lake Region.

Republic Act No. 4850, otherwise known as the "Laguna Lake Development Authority Act of 1966," created the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) to promote the balanced development and sustainable management of the Laguna de Bay basin. Over the years, however, significant demographic, economic, and environmental changes have transformed the region, increasing the need for a more inclusive, participatory, and responsive governance structure.

At present, the representation of local government units in the LLDA Board is limited and does not adequately reflect the interests of the numerous cities and municipalities directly situated along the lakeshore. These local government units bear the immediate consequences of decisions involving land use, environmental protection, fisheries management, reclamation activities, infrastructure development, and other projects affecting the lake ecosystem. As frontline stakeholders, they must be afforded a stronger voice in the formulation of policies governing Laguna de Bay.

This measure therefore seeks to strengthen local representation in the LLDA Board by providing for the election of three (3) representatives from among the local chief executives of cities and municipalities directly bordering Laguna de Bay, with one representative each coming from the National Capital Region lakeshore local government units, the Province of Laguna, and the Province of Rizal. This arrangement ensures balanced geographic representation and promotes greater accountability in the Board's decision-making processes.

The bill likewise recognizes the importance of transparency, public participation, and stakeholder engagement in environmental governance. Decisions affecting Laguna de Bay often have profound environmental, economic, and social implications. To ensure that policies and projects are informed by the perspectives and expertise of affected sectors, this measure

mandates meaningful, timely, and transparent consultation with local government units, fisherfolk, people's organizations, indigenous peoples where applicable, civil society organizations, academic institutions, business groups, and relevant government agencies before major policies and other significant actions are adopted.

By institutionalizing stakeholder consultations, public hearings, and participatory mechanisms, the bill promotes good governance, strengthens public trust, enhances policy legitimacy, and ensures that development initiatives within the Laguna Lake Region are pursued in a manner that is environmentally sustainable, socially equitable, and responsive to the needs of affected communities.

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


JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4850 AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT OF 1966, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 4850 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 16. Board of Directors: Composition. The corporate powers shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of eight (8) members, to wit: the Executive Secretary, the Secretary of Economic Planning, the Secretary of Natural Resources, the Secretary of Industry, [a representative of Laguna Province, who shall be designated by the Provincial Board of Laguna; a representative of Rizal Province to be designated by its Provincial Board;] the General Manager of the Authority to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, and a representative of the private investors, likewise to be appointed by the President of the Philippines from among a list of recommendees to be submitted by the private investors, **AND THREE (3) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES DIRECTLY BORDERING THE COASTLINE OF LAGUNA DE BAY, ONE (1) OF WHOM SHALL BE FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION LAKESHORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, ONE (1) FROM THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AND ONE (1) FROM THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL, TO BE ELECTED BY AND FROM AMONG THE DULY ELECTED LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES OF THE CONCERNED CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.**”

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Sec. 2. Section 25-A of Republic Act No. 4850 is hereby amended as follows:

“Section 25-A. Powers and Functions of the Board of Directors.

- a. To formulate, prescribe, amend and repeal rules and regulations to govern the conduct of business of the Authority;
- b. To appoint and fix the compensation of all officials from division heads and above, and others of comparable rank including the Assistant General Manager upon the recommendation of the General Manager;
- c. By a majority vote of all members of the Board, to suspend, remove or otherwise discipline for just cause all officials appointed by the Board;
- d. To approve the annual and/or supplemental budgets of the Authority; [and]
- [e. To do such other acts and perform such other functions as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Charter.]

E. ENSURE MEANINGFUL, TIMELY AND TRANSPARENT CONSULTATION WITH AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS, FISHERFOLK ASSOCIATIONS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WHERE APPLICABLE, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESS GROUPS, ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND CONCERNED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL, ADOPTION OR PROMULGATION OF ANY MAJOR POLICY, RULE, REGULATION, DEVELOPMENT PLAN, RECLAMATION PROJECT, ZONING MEASURE, ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD OR OTHER DECISION HAVING SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL IMPACT WITHIN THE LAGUNA LAKE REGION;

F. ESTABLISH MECHANISMS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, PUBLIC HEARINGS, STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES AND PUBLICATION OF PROPOSED POLICIES AND REGULATIONS TO ENSURE THAT STAKEHOLDER INPUTS ARE ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED BEFORE FINAL BOARD ACTION; AND

G. PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

NO POLICY, RULE, REGULATION, DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD OR MAJOR PROJECT AFFECTING THE LAGUNA LAKE REGION SHALL BE FINALIZED OR PROMULGATED BY THE BOARD WITHOUT PRIOR STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND DUE CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED DURING SUCH CONSULTATION PROCESS, SUBJECT TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE BOARD.”

Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Laguna Lake Development Authority shall, within sixty (60) days and in consultation with all stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 4. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Sec. 5. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or is inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, is hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 6. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,