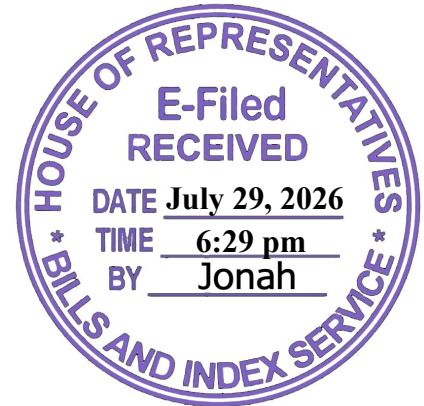


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10425**



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The increasing frequency of floods, landslides, forest degradation, and other environmental challenges highlights the need to strengthen environmental governance at the local level. Local government units (LGUs) play a vital role in protecting and managing forests, watersheds, coastal resources, and other natural assets. However, many LGUs still lack dedicated Environment and Natural Resources Officers (ENROs), as their appointment under the Local Government Code of 1991 remains optional. This results in many LGUs either having no designated ENRO or assigning environmental responsibilities to personnel who lack the technical expertise or security of tenure necessary to ensure continuity in environmental management programs.

Therefore, this measure seeks to amend Section 484 of Republic Act No. 7160 by making the appointment of Provincial, City, and Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officers mandatory and establishing the position as regular and permanent. Institutionalizing these positions will strengthen the capacity of LGUs to implement environmental protection, watershed rehabilitation, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction programs.

By ensuring that every local government has a qualified and permanent Environment and Natural Resources Officer, this bill seeks to improve policy continuity, strengthen environmental law enforcement, enhance disaster risk reduction and climate resilience, and promote the responsible stewardship of the country's natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

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


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

Twentieth Congress of the
Republic of the Philippines
Second Regular Session

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10425**

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

**AN ACT MANDATING THE PERMANENT APPOINTMENT OF
PROVINCIAL/CITY/MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICER AMENDING SECTION 484 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991**

*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 referred to as the "Mandatory Permanent Appointment of Provincial/City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer Act".

SEC. 2. Sec. 484 (a) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- (a) No person shall be appointed environment and natural resources officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in forestry, environment, agriculture, or agroforestry from a recognized college or university, with first-grade civil service eligibility or its equivalent, and **PREFERABLY** a resident of the local government unit concerned. The Provincial and City ENRO shall at least have a masteral degree in forestry, environment, agriculture, or agroforestry and must at least have five (5) years-experience in environmental and natural resources management, conservation, and utilization and three (3) years-experience in the case of the

Municipal ENRO. **THE PROVINCIAL AND CITY ENRO SHALL HAVE A SALARY GRADE OF 24 AND THE MUNICIPAL ENRO SHALL HAVE A SALARY GRADE OF 22.**

The appointment of Provincial/City/Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (P/C/MENRO) **SHALL BE MANDATORY AND SHALL BE A REGULAR AND PERMANENT POSITION IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.**

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,