

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10675



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," decentralized key public services to local government units (LGUs) to foster local autonomy and self-reliance. However, under Section 443(a) and Section 489(a) of the Code, the appointment of a Veterinarian Officer is mandated only for provincial and city governments, leaving the position merely optional for municipal governments.

This statutory limitation creates a significant coverage gap in rural and agricultural communities. Most backyard livestock raisers, small-scale poultry farmers, and pet owners reside in municipalities where access to licensed veterinary professionals is severely lacking. As a result, animal diseases are frequently untreated, unmonitored, or managed using traditional methods that fail to prevent contagion.

The absence of dedicated municipal veterinarians exposes local livestock industries to devastating outbreaks of transmissible and zoonotic diseases—such as African Swine Fever (ASF), Avian Influenza (Bird Flu), Rabies, and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). These diseases cause immense economic loss to farming families, threaten national food security, and present serious public health risks to human populations.

This bill seeks to amend Sections 443 and 489 of Republic Act No. 7160 to make the appointment of a Municipal Veterinarian Officer mandatory across all municipalities in the Philippines.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 10675

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

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF A MUNICIPAL
VETERINARIAN OFFICER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN
PROVISIONS 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 known as the “Mandatory Municipal Veterinarian Act.”

SEC. 2. *Amendment of Section 443.* — Section 443, Paragraph (a) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 443. Officials of the Municipal Government. — (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health officer, **A MUNICIPAL VETERINARIAN**, and a municipal civil registrar."
(b) ...

SEC. 3. *Amendment of Section 489.* — Section 489, Paragraph (a) of Republic Act No. 7160 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 489. Qualifications, Powers, and Duties.

(a) No person shall be appointed veterinarian unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, and a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. He must have practiced his profession for at least three (3) years in the case of the provincial or city veterinarian, and at least one (1) year in the case of the municipal veterinarian.

The appointment of a veterinarian officer is mandatory for provincial, city, and **MUNICIPAL** governments.

SEC. 4. *Funding and Implementation.* — Local Government Units (LGUs) shall allocate the necessary funds for the creation of the position and office of the Municipal Veterinarian in their annual budgets, subject to the personal services

limitations provided under Section 325 of Republic Act No. 7160. National agencies such as the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) may provide technical and operational support during the transition phase.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,