

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 286

Introduced by Representative **FLORENCIO "JOEBEN" T. MIRAFLORES**

A RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE REVIEW AND REVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, TO ENSURE ITS RESPONSIVENESS TO THE DEMANDS OF MODERN LOCAL GOVERNANCE, DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1 **WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 7160, the Local Government Code of 1991, has been
2 in effect for over thirty-three years and no longer fully meets the needs of many local
3 government units (LGUs) across the country today, with numerous issues identified that need
4 to be addressed;

5 **WHEREAS**, Section 521 of the Local Government Code mandates that Congress
6 “undertake a mandatory review of this Code at least once every five (5) years...with the
7 primary objective of providing a more responsive and accountable local government structure”,
8 underscoring the intent of the law for periodic updates to keep the Code responsive to evolving
9 conditions;

10 **WHEREAS**, many LGUs, especially barangays and 4th to 5th class municipalities,
11 struggle to fund and implement essential services devolved to them under the Code, such as
12 the construction of barangay roads and school facilities, due to limited financial capacity;

13 **WHEREAS**, there have been calls to clarify the delineation of responsibilities between
14 the national government and LGUs in certain sectors, given that some functions (for instance,
15 establishing and maintaining advanced healthcare facilities) may be beyond the capability of
16 smaller LGUs and thus require national government support;

17 **WHEREAS**, the Local Government Code was enacted long before the advent of
18 modern digital technology, and it has been pointed out that revisions should include provisions
19 empowering LGUs to harness information and communications technology for more efficient
20 public service delivery;

21 **WHEREAS**, the 2018 Mandanas-Garcia Supreme Court ruling, which expanded the
22 share of national taxes (National Tax Allotment) for LGUs, has significantly increased local
23 fiscal resources and responsibilities, a development that amplifies the need to revisit the Code’s
24 provisions on devolution and fiscal management so that LGUs can effectively utilize their
25 increased resources;

26 **WHEREAS**, a recent evidence-based review conducted in collaboration with the
27 National Research Council of the Philippines and the House of Representatives identified
28 several policy gaps in the implementation of the Local Government Code, including reliance
29 on outdated data for government programs, lack of a centralized system to inform LGUs of
30 new laws, and absence of standardized monitoring and evaluation practices, indicating that the
31 Code has not fully kept pace with the current needs and priorities of local governance;

32 **WHEREAS**, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. has directed national government
33 agencies to study and recommend which functions of the national government can be devolved
34 to local government units under existing laws (including reviewing Executive Order No. 138),
35 in recognition of the need for LGUs to have clearer roles and capacities in modern governance;

36 **WHEREAS**, the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) and other local
37 government leagues have echoed this call, resolving to propose amendments to the Local
38 Government Code to better capacitate local officials in addressing development needs and
39 emerging challenges in their jurisdictions;


40 **WHEREAS**, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has
41 announced that it is undertaking a comprehensive review of the 34-year-old Local Government
42 Code and finalizing proposals for its amendment, which will be submitted to the Twentieth
43 Congress for appropriate legislative action;

44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the House of
45 Representatives, to express its full and unequivocal support for the immediate review and
46 comprehensive revision of the Local Government Code of 1991, to strengthen local autonomy

47 and governance. This undertaking is envisioned to provide a clearer delineation of functions
48 between the national and local governments, to strengthen the mandates and capacities of
49 LGUs, and to update outdated provisions of the Code so that local government units are better
50 empowered to deliver basic services and promote sustainable local development in the modern
51 context.

52 **RESOLVED, FINALLY**, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the
53 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Union of Local Authorities of
54 the Philippines (ULAP), and other concerned agencies and stakeholders for their information
55 and appropriate action.

Adopted,


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