



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH (18<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 710**

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Introduced by REP. JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress, the bill entitled, "*An Act Amending Section 393, Paragraph (D) of Republic Act No. 7160, Otherwise Known as the Local Government Code of 1991, Providing Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes*" was originally filed as House Bill No. 590 by this Representation. The same measure was filed in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress as House Bill No. 446. Since its referral to the Committee on Local Government, the bill has remained pending for committee deliberation.

The proposed measure seeks to reinforce the role of the barangay to amicably settle disputes in the barangay level, and to ensure optimal manpower in ensuring the safety of barangays. Barangay Public Safety Officers (BPSOs) play an important role in this role of the barangays. They are the frontliners in anti-crime programs and activities in the barangay, particularly where police presence is rare or scarce. In some instances, services of the BPSO have also been tapped in disaster relief operations and other emergency situations. Their safety is generally compromised.

Section 393, paragraph (d) of the Local Government Code provides that every barangay is entitled to have not more than twenty (20) barangay tanods or its equivalent to help in maintaining peace and order in the community.

The 20 tanod cap is not realistic. In the 6<sup>th</sup> District of Quezon City, for example, a medium-sized barangay has an average population of about 50,000. This means that complying with the cap provided under Republic Act No. 7160 or the *Local Government Code of 1991*, the ratio is 1 tanod is to 2,500 residents. Such ratio will make it difficult, if not near impossible for the Barangay and the BPSOs to dispense their duties properly. Often, barangays which have huge land area employ more than what the law provides to address their actual needs in maintaining peace and order.

To safeguard the safety of their communities, the barangays usually retain

additional personnel, which they treat as volunteers, and given only allowances. Despite performing similar functions as the regular BPSO members. These volunteers are not properly compensated.

It is in this light that this bill is being reintroduced to remove the 20-tanod limit under RA No. 7160, providing a way to increase the number of BPSO's in proportion to the number of residents in the barangay.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. B. B. B. B.", is written on the right side of the page.



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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF BARANGAY PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS (BPSO) THEREBY AMENDING SECTION 393, PARAGRAPH (D) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1       **SECTION. 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to maintain peace  
2 and order in all localities within its territory and to provide auxiliary support to its national  
3 police by establishing barangay public safety brigades or barangay tanods in all barangays  
4 nationwide. It is likewise an established state policy that all peacekeeping officers, including  
5 barangay tanods, are provided adequate means for their upkeep and protection.

6       **SEC. 2.** *Original Provision.* - SEC. 393, paragraph (d) provides, thus: "All duly  
7 appointed members of the barangay tanod brigades, or their equivalent, which shall number  
8 not more than twenty (20) in each barangay, shall be granted insurance or other benefits  
9 during incumbency, chargeable to the barangay or the city or municipal government to which  
10 the barangay belongs.

11       **SEC. 3.** *Amendatory Clause.* - SEC. 393, paragraph (d) of Republic Act Numbered  
12 7160 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

13       "THESE SHALL BE APPOINTED BARANGAY PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS  
14 (BPSO) IN EACH BARANGAY WHOSE NUMBER SHALL BE COMPUTED IN



1 A SCALE OF TEN (10) BPSO MEMBERS PER ONE THOUSAND (1,000)  
2 RESIDENTS, BUT IN NO CASE SHALL BE LESS THAN TWENTY (20)  
3 REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS AND LAND AREA OF THE  
4 BARANGAY. THE APPOINTED BPSO MEMBERS SHALL BE GRANTED A  
5 MANDATORY LIFE INSURANCE AND OTHER BENEFITS ENJOYED BY  
6 CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES DURING THEIR INCUMBENCY,  
7 CHARGEABLE TO THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY TO WHICH THEIR  
8 BARANGAY BELONGS.”

9 **SEC. 4.** *Amendment of Existing Rules and Regulations.* - Within six (6) months  
10 following the approval of the President of this amendatory law, the Department of the Interior  
11 and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service  
12 Commission shall accordingly amend, revise, repeal or modify existing rules and regulations  
13 to conform to the amended provision.

14 **SEC. 5.** *Repealing Clause* - All Acts, Decrees, Executive Orders and Rules and  
15 Regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified  
16 accordingly.

17 **SEC. 6.** *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its  
18 publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

19 *Approved,*