

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 1858

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to allow local government units to retain fifty percent (50%) of the collection proceeds from all taxes, fees and fines imposed under Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1185, otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines, to be used for the maintenance and purchase of firefighting gadgets, equipment and fire trucks for its local fire stations.

Pursuant to Section 14 of PD 1185, local government units are mandated to collect fire inspection fees from business establishments within their territories and to remit the same to the national treasury. However, despite the huge amount of fire inspection fees remitted to the National Treasury, the national government fails to provide for the purchase of new fire trucks and equipment necessary for fire prevention. Hence, dilapidated fire trucks and worn out firefighting equipment are perennial problems in the prevention and suppression of fire.

Fire prevention and suppression require the adoption of uniform fire safety standards, the incorporation of fire safety facilities and provision of protective and safety devices in buildings and structures. In order to effectively implement all efforts to minimize the occurrence of fires and their destructive effects, it is imperative to empower the local government units to retain fifty percent (50%) of the said collection proceeds to be used for upgrading equipment and facilities of their respective fire departments. The remaining fifty percent (50%), however, will still be remitted to the National Treasury.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

ALLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO RETAIN FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE PROCEEDS FROM ALL TAXES, FEES AND FINES COLLECTED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED ELEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIVE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED.

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

SECTION. 1. Section 14 of Presidential Decree No. 1185, otherwise known as the Fire Code of the Philippines, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 14. Collection Of Taxes, Fees and Fines. – All taxes, fees and fines provided in Section 13 hereof, shall be collected by the City or Municipal Treasurer [concerned]: **PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF ALL SUCH COLLECTIONS SHALL BE SET ASIDE AND RETAINED BY THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT CONCERNED, WHICH SHALL APPROPRIATE THE SAME EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE USE OF ITS LOCAL FIRE STATION IN THE PURCHASE OF FIRE TRUCKS, FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, APPLIANCES OR DEVICES, AND THE MAINTENANCE THEREOF; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE REMAINING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) SHALL BE REMITTED [for remittance] to the National Treasury.**”

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,