



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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 06

Introduced by
**REPRESENTATIVES RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS, PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ,
ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR., MICHAEL JOHN R. DUAVIT,
CARLOS O COJUANGCO, ELISA T. KHO, RANEO E. ABU,
BENHUR L. SALIMBANGON, DANILO E. SUAREZ,
RODEL M. BATOCABE and KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to enhance public order and safety at the local level by mandating the creation of a Department of Public Safety in every province, city and municipality to improve the capability of local government units to meet the demand for greater safety and security, better local traffic management, and enhanced disaster preparedness and response.

Currently, only a handful of highly urbanized cities have their own dedicated and integrated department in-charge of public order and safety. The norm among local government units is to rely on other local and national agencies to address particular public order and safety concerns. This makes local government units less responsive to the pressing public order and safety problems that the nation currently faces.

The National Economic and Development Authority cites a study which states that each day, losses incurred from vehicular traffic congestion in the National Capital Region alone amount to P3 billion. Meanwhile, the Department of Health estimates that accidents of all types, including road accidents, are ranked fourth in the causes of mortality for all ages, with the annual economic cost of road traffic injuries estimated at

P3.5 million per fatal accident and P734,867 per serious injury. The public also incurs economic and other losses in instances of deaths, injuries and damage to property due to crime and natural or man-made disasters and calamities. Many of such losses, however, may be prevented by a more responsive and better prepared government at the local level. A proactive local approach can be part of a broader and more comprehensive solution to the challenges that the country confronts in the areas of public order and safety.

This bill promotes greater commitment to public order and safety by local government units and increases their responsiveness by establishing a fully-functional and responsive central command and control center and emergency response and management system. Further, the proposed measure institutionalizes the creation of a Department of Public Safety under the direct control and supervision of the provincial governor, city and municipal mayor. The Department of Public Safety will support and augment law enforcement, oversee the operations of private security agencies and security guards, clear sidewalks and public spaces of obstruction, and mitigate the effects of disasters and calamities. The bill also allows for contiguous municipalities and cities to jointly establish collective command and control centers and emergency response and management systems pending the ability of certain municipalities and cities to establish their own independent centers and systems.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is highly recommended.



PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ



RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS

(Creating the Department of Safety)



ROLANDO G. ANDAYA, JR.



CARLOS O. COJUANGCO



RANEO E. ABU



DANILO E. SUAREZ



KARLO ALEXEI B. NOGRALES



MICHAEL JOHN R. DUAVIT



ELISA T. KHO



BENHUR L. SALIMBANGON



RODEL M. BATOCABE



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HOUSE BILL NO. 0006

Introduced by
**REPRESENTATIVES RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS, PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ,
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AN ACT
**ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BY ESTABLISHING
AND MAINTAINING A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN EVERY
PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY**

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

1 SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Public
2 Safety Act.”

3 SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to
4 promote public order, ensure public safety and further spur economic
5 development through the enhancement of local government capability in
6 addressing safety and security concerns and maintaining public order including
7 the implementation of efficient and effective local traffic management and

1 disaster preparedness and relief operations. Towards this end, all local
2 government units shall establish and maintain a fully functional and responsive
3 central command and control center and emergency response and management
4 system in order to protect and preserve the right of the people to life, liberty and
5 property.

6 **SEC. 3. *Creation of a Department of Public Safety.*** – Every
7 province, city and municipality is hereby mandated to create a Department of
8 Public Safety (DPS) which, under the direct control and supervision of the
9 provincial governor, city or municipal mayor, is tasked to implement public order
10 and safety laws and ordinances, help reduce vehicular traffic congestion and
11 address the effects of man-made and natural disasters. The DPS shall operate a
12 fully-functional and responsive central command and control center and
13 emergency response and management system that will connect constituents
14 needing immediate assistance with the emergency resources of the government,
15 such as law enforcement, medical services, and fire and rescue services, using
16 the most appropriate and available technologies and communications, with a
17 fully-operative call center and dispatch hotline, adequate and well-trained staff,
18 sufficient and up-to-date emergency response equipment, all consistent with
19 national standards and best practices.

20 Contiguous municipalities and cities may, through their local chief
21 executives, enter into arrangements and agreements to establish collective
22 command and control centers and emergency response and management

1 systems pending the ability of certain municipalities and cities to establish their
2 own independent centers and systems.

3 Any province, city or municipality with an existing DPS or similar agency
4 shall retain the same but must conform with the provisions of this Act.

5 SEC. 4. **Powers and Functions.** – The DPS shall exercise the
6 following powers and functions:

7 (a) Prepare, integrate, coordinate, supervise and control all plans,
8 programs, projects and activities of the local government relative to the
9 promotion and maintenance of peace and order and the protection of life, liberty
10 and property;

11 (b) Secure the general public and maintain public order in conjunction
12 with the police and other national law enforcement agencies;

13 (c) Augment auxiliary traffic services and support other agencies tasked
14 to enforce traffic management;

15 (d) Issue temporary terminal permits to public utility vehicles and
16 manage public utility vehicle terminals;

17 (e) Monitor and supervise private security agencies and security guards
18 and issue their security clearances and business or work permits;

19 (f) Issue traffic clearance certificates to business establishments;

20 (g) Clear sidewalks, public parks and other public areas of obstructions
21 such as unauthorized structures or fixtures and unlicensed vendors; and

1 (h) Organize plans for and undertake evacuation, rescue and relief
2 operations in times of disasters, calamities and civil disturbances;

3 (i) Establish, maintain and operate a central command and control
4 center and emergency response and management system that will monitor and
5 respond to various contingencies in which emergency resources of the
6 government are required by the constituents.

7 Accordingly, existing departments within the local government units whose
8 primary functions are those enumerated above are hereby integrated and
9 included within the DPS. The DPS may assume additional functions other than
10 those enumerated above and may absorb other offices or agencies within the
11 local government unit as long as the functions or offices are in relation to public
12 order, safety and security and the protection of life, liberty or property, unless an
13 existing law expressly prohibits the same.

14 SEC. 5. **Funding.** – The amount necessary for the initial
15 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of
16 the local government units. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for
17 continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the local
18 government unit.

19 SEC. 6. **Compliance Period.** – The local government units shall
20 comply within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act. Within thirty (30) days
21 from compliance, the governor, city or municipal mayor shall report the same to
22 the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government.

1 SEC. 7. ***Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any section or
2 provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid by the Supreme Court,
3 the other sections or provisions hereof not affected by such declaration shall
4 remain in force and effect.

5 SEC. 8. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules
6 and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
7 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8 SEC. 9. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
9 from its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general
10 circulation.

11 Approved,