

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1136



Introduced by Honorable Roy M. Loyola

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill was first introduced at the First Regular Session of the Fifteenth Congress. It seeks to amend the Local Government Code by making it mandatory for all provinces, cities and municipalities to appoint an environment and natural resources officer.

As we face the effects of global warming and other equally alarming environmental crisis, it is evident that there is a need to make immediate and drastic measures to address such catastrophes.

In today's era of rapid growth, development and industrialization, the environment oftentimes takes the back seat. Countless times, we have seen our countrymen fall victims to man-made disasters which could have been prevented had there been sound environmental plans, policies and programs at the local government unit level.

Taking into consideration the string of environmental calamities that occurred recently, the need for a responsible officer with the required expertise to directly handle environmental concerns of the local government unit becomes readily apparent.

Section 484 (b) of the Local Government Code of 1991 provides, an environment and natural resources management officer is tasked with the following:

- (1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sanggunian and provide technical assistance and support to the governor or mayor, as the case may be, in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic services and provision of adequate facilities relative to environment and natural resources services as provided for under Section 17 of this Code;

(2) Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof, by the governor or mayor, as the case may be, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with environment and natural resources programs and projects which the governor or mayor is empowered to implement and which the sanggunian is empowered to provide for under this Code;

(3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the environment and natural resources officer shall:

(i) Establish, maintain, protect and preserve communal forests, watersheds, tree parks, mangroves, greenbelts and similar forest projects and commercial forest, like industrial tree farms and agro-forestry projects;

(ii) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and technical, financial and infrastructure assistance;

(iii) Manage and maintain seed banks and produce seedlings for forest and tree parks;

(iv) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development projects and render assistance for natural resources-related conservation and utilization activities consistent with ecological balance;

(v) Promote the small-scale mining and utilization of mineral resources, particularly mining of gold;

(vi) Coordinate with government agencies and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of measures to prevent and control land, air and water pollution with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;


(4) Be in the frontline of the delivery of services concerning the environment and natural resources, particularly in the renewal and rehabilitation of the environment during and in the aftermath of man-made and natural calamities and disasters;

(5) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the governor or mayor, as the case may be, on all matters relative to the protection, conservation maximum utilization, application of appropriate technology and other matters related to the environment and natural resources; and

(6) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

In light of the foregoing duties and responsibilities of an environment and natural resources officer, it could be said that his appointment is indispensable to address the pressing environmental issues. Sadly, as our law stands today, the appointment of the said officer still remains optional.

For these reasons, I earnestly urge my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in seeking immediate approval of this Bill.



ROY M. LOYOLA

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**AN ACT MAKING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER MANDATORY IN ALL PROVINCES,
CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, AMENDING SECTION 484 (a) OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
"THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"**

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

1 **SECTION 1 . -** Section 484 (a) of Republic Act No. 7160 as
2 amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991" is
3 hereby further amended as follows:

4 " SEC. 484. *Qualifications, Powers and Duties.*— (a) xxx
5 "The appointment of the environment and natural resources
6 officer is [optional] **MANDATORY** for the provincial, city, and municipal
7 governments."

8 **SECTION 2. -** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 publication in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,