

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **2563**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create positions, called the Local Cabinet Secretaries, in the provinces, cities, and municipalities which will be appointed by the Local Chief Executive. There are as many local cabinet secretaries as there are number of departments under the local executive branch. These Local Cabinet Secretaries serve at the pleasure of the Local Chief Executive and enjoy a position of trust and confidence. The term of the Local Cabinet Secretary shall be coterminous with that of his appointing authority.

The Local Cabinet Secretary serves as the head of the department, exercise such powers, and discharge such duties and functions as expressly provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, or the *Local Government Code*. The Department Heads under the present local government structure shall become the Assistant Local Cabinet Secretaries. The Local Cabinet Secretaries shall have a salary grade of one degree higher than that of the present department heads.

The creation of such position ensures that the local policy making and planning of all the executive departments will be aligned to the executive agenda of the local government unit. It will also address the issue of the continuing decline of trust in government and the imperatives for reform. As we all know, the decline of trust in government has been brought about by many factors including inefficient and ineffective delivery of services among other things.

There were many cases in the past, as well as in this present administration, when a newly-elected official assumed into office and the internal bureaucracy is proving to be a major challenge to his leadership due to the employees' loyalty to the previous chief executive and/or they are just simply not performing well as a result of bad habit and prevailing culture of poor work attitude in the office. It slows the internal operations of the government and it directly affects the productivity of everyone, including the efficiency of the local chief executive.

As a consequence, local chief executives are forced to reassigning some employees to other offices or putting them in a "*floating status*" so as to guarantee the smooth flow of work in the department concerned. These certainly lead to filing of complaints, before the Office of the Ombudsman and/or the Department of Interior and Local Government, against the local executive officials by those employees who first and foremost failed to heed the call of the local chief executive for full support and cooperation.

Given that the local chief executives are operating on a limited length of tenure, it is vital that everyone in the local government service are aligned with the vision of the local chief executive and are committed to fully support his strategic agenda. It is also very critical that the heads of offices and the local chief executive have a good working relationship and mutually trust each other's decision and capacity.

Through the creation of a Local Cabinet Secretary post, it will give the local chief executive the guarantee to come up with responsive and timely plans, programs, projects and services for the community by strategically working together with executive departments of the local government unit. Poor public perception towards government remains to be a challenge for everyone and restoring people's trust is an equally important concern. Trust is upheld when a public official is brought to office through a democratic process such as election; however, the more important challenge is how to sustain public trust once the local elected official already holds the responsibility and the mandate to serve. One of the best ways to do that is to have a fully functional and responsive government that is not impeded by any internal bureaucratic problem caused by erring employees and dysfunctional structure.

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


ATTY. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II
1st District, Zamboanga Sibugay

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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
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AN ACT
CREATING LOCAL CABINET SECRETARY POSITIONS
IN THE PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to enable the Local Government Units to exercise the powers and discharge the duties and functions expressly and impliedly granted, as well as powers necessary, appropriate or incidental thereto for the efficient and effective governance. The State grants to every Local Government Unit the inherent power to design and implement its own organizational structure and staffing pattern; *Provided however*, the LGU concern shall take into account the service requirements and its financial capacity; and, *Provided finally*, that the LGU adopts the minimum standards and guidelines set forth by the Civil Service Commission.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the terms:

- a) *Local Chief Executive* shall refer to the Governor, City Mayor or Municipal Mayor.

- b) *Department Heads* shall refer to the appointive local officials common to all municipalities, cities and provinces prescribed under Title V of Book II of Republic Act No. 7160, EXCEPT the Secretary to the Sanggunian;

SECTION 3. *Qualifications.* – No person shall be appointed Local Cabinet Secretary of the Department unless he possesses all the qualifications of a Department Head prescribed under Title V of Book II of the Local Government Code.

SECTION 4. The appointment of the Local Cabinet Secretaries hereof, shall be optional to the respective Local Chief Executive. The Local Chief Executive may, at any time within his/her term, appoint a Local Cabinet Secretary of a Department. In the event that the Local Chief Executive opts not to appoint a Local Cabinet Secretary for the Department, the existing Department Head shall act as the OIC Secretary of the Department.

SECTION 5. *Compensation.* – The appointive Local Cabinet Secretary shall have a Salary Grade one (1) degree higher than the Salary Grade received by the existing Department Heads of the Local Government Unit concerned.

In the event that the Local Chief Executive opts not to appoint a Local Cabinet Secretary of a Department, the existing Department Head shall act as the OIC Secretary of the Department and shall retain his/her Salary Grade status.

SECTION 6. In the event that the Local Chief Executive fails to appoint a Local Cabinet Secretary before the end of the of the calendar year, the allocation for the compensation of such Local Cabinet Secretary shall revert back to the general fund of the LGU and shall be considered as savings.

SECTION 7. *Appropriation.* – The Department of Budget and Management, in coordination, cooperation and consultation with, the Department of Interior and Local Government, Office of the President, and all other concerned agencies,

shall submit to Congress the necessary budgetary estimates to properly implement the provisions of this Act. Such estimates and other amount as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual Appropriations Act, of the city or municipality where the barangay is located, in the calendar year following the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Budget and Management, in coordination and consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Office of the President and other agencies concerned, shall promulgate and adopt such rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,