

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 934



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When Republic Act No. 9263, also known as the "Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004", was enacted into law new and more stringent requirements were imposed for those intending to join the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) to professionalize their ranks. RA 9263 was amended by RA 9592 last May 8, 2009 in order to adjust the requirements to allow the retention of existing personnel of both the BFP and BJMP.

Although these legislations proved to be beneficial to the concerned agencies, the updated standards pertaining to educational qualification and civil service eligibility have rendered it difficult for many applicants to qualify for entry-level positions at the BFP, particularly those aspiring to become Truck Drivers/Mechanics. This fact has resulted to fairly low employment rate in the said agency.

This is contrary to the lofty intentions of our Constitution, which seeks, among others, to enhance full protection to labor and to promote full employment and equality of employment opportunities for all.

Therefore, in accordance to the policy of the State, this bill is being proposed to address this issue by rationalizing the qualifications for the appointment to entry-level positions of the BFP, while upholding professionalism in the said agency.

It is hoped that the passage of this measure will open up more opportunities for qualified applicants who aspire to serve our country and our people as part of the uniformed personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection.

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


MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
CREATING THE POSITION/RANK OF FIRE TRUCK OFFICER (FTO) IN THE
BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title of the Act.** – This Act shall be known as the "*The Fire Truck*
2 *Officer Act.*"

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** –The maintenance of peace and order, the protection
5 of life, liberty and property and promotion of the general welfare are essential for the
6 enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.

7 The State shall likewise afford full protection to labor and promote full employment
8 and equality of employment opportunities for all.

9
10 **SEC. 3.**– There shall be created the position and rank of Fire Truck Officer in the
11 Bureau of Fire Protection with the designation of Fire Truck Driver-Mechanic. For purposes
12 of promotion within the rank, a Fire Truck Officer can hold the Item of Fire Truck Officer 1
13 (FTO1), Fire Truck Officer 2 (FTO2) or Fire Truck Officer 3 (FTO3).

14
15 **SEC. 4. Requirements and Qualifications.**– No person shall be appointed as Fire
16 Truck Officer (FTO) in the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) unless he/she possesses the
17 following minimum qualifications:

- 18 a. A citizen of the Republic of the Philippines;
- 19 b. A person of good moral character;
- 20 c. Must have passed the neuro-psychiatric/psychological, drug and physical tests for
21 the purpose of determining his/her physical and mental health;
- 22 d. Must be at least a High School Graduate from recognized institution of learning;

1 e. Must be a driver (NC3) and must possess a valid professional driver's license with
2 restrictions 1, 2 and 3;

3 f. Must be a mechanic duly certified by the Technical Education Skills and
4 Development Authority (TESDA) or by any private institution accredited by the
5 latter;

6 g. Must not have been convicted by final judgment of an offense or crime involving
7 moral turpitude;

8 h. Must be at least twenty-one (21) years old but not more than thirty-five (35) years
9 of age at the time of his/her appointment;

10 i. Must be at least one meter and sixty-two centimeters (1.62m) in height for male and
11 one meter and fifty- seven centimeters (1.57m) for female: *Provided*, That a waiver for
12 height and age requirements shall be automatically granted to applicants belonging to
13 the cultural communities.
14

15 **SEC. 5. *Appointment of Fire Truck Officer of the BFP.***— The appointment of Fire
16 Truck Officer 1 to Fire Truck Officer 3 (PTO1 to FTO3) of the BFP shall be made by the
17 respective Regional Director of the BFP or by the Chief of the BFP for appointments in the
18 national headquarters, and attested by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).
19

20 **SEC. 6. *Position and Designation.***— Successful applicants shall have the entry
21 position as Fire Truck Officer 1 with the designation as Fire Truck Driver-Mechanic.
22

23 **SEC. 7. *Salaries and compensation.*** – The salaries and compensation of successful
24 applicants shall be Salary Grade 6 for Fire Truck Officer 1 (FTO1); Salary Grade 7 for Fire
25 Truck Officer 2 (FTO2); and Salary Grade 8 for Fire Truck Officer 3 (FTO3).
26

27 **SEC. 8. *Mandatory Training.*** – As uniformed personnel of the BFP, Fire Truck
28 Officers shall undergo a 30-day mandatory training in accordance with the Program of
29 Instruction (POI) to be formulated by the National Fire Training Institute (NFTI).
30

31 **SEC. 9. *Opportunity for Promotions.***— A Fire Truck Officer shall not be eligible for
32 promotion to Fire Officer 1 (FOI) unless he/she has complied with the minimum
33 Qualification Standard (QS) requirements set forth by RA No. 9263, as amended by RA No.
34 9592. However, an FTO I shall be eligible for promotion to the next higher rank of FTO2, and
35 thereafter, to FTO3, in accordance with the existing rules and regulations set by the CSC and
36 criteria for promotion to be established by the BFP.

1 **SEC. 10. *Appropriations.*** – The funds for the positions of FTO1 to FTO3 created in
2 the staff of the BFP pursuant to this law shall be included in the General Annual
3 Appropriation (GAA) of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), for approval by Congress.

4
5 **SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.***– The Department of Interior and
6 Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the BFP, the CSC, the Department of
7 Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Finance (DOF) shall, within ninety
8 (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to
9 implement the provision of this Act.

10
11 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
12 unconstitutional, the same shall not prejudice the validity and effectivity of the other
13 provisions not affected thereby.

14
15 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and
16 other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are
17 hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

18
19 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.***– This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in
21 the country.

Approved,