

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 931




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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 6975 mandates the Bureau of Fire Protection to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, the enforcement of the fire code, and the investigation of all causes of fires, and if necessary, the filing of the proper complaints with the appropriate agencies. For operational and logistical efficiency, the Bureau of Fire Protection needs to implement a modernization program that will safeguard the populace from the hazards of destructive fires.

This measure calls for the establishment of fire stations and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in all local government units. Through this legislation, fire trucks and similar equipment shall be punctual to effectively respond to fire alarms in both the financial districts and residential areas by making the capacity to navigate small roads and thoroughfares in densely populated urban centers. In addition, trauma units in public hospitals must be upgraded; and fire personnel as well as fire volunteers will be trained using state-of-the-art equipment for fire prevention and suppression.

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


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

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Fire Protection
2 Modernization Act".
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to develop the Bureau of
5 Fire Protection (BFP) ensure public safety through the prevention of and suppression of all
6 kinds of destructives fires with the active support of the community, enforce the Presidential
7 Decree No. 1185 and further strengthen local government capability aimed towards the
8 effective delivery and competent fire protection personnel. The acquisition of modern
9 equipment shall constitute the main thrust of the Fire Protection Modernization Program.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Component.** - The Fire Protection Modernization Program, for
12 implementation over a three (3) year period, shall consist of the following:
13

- 14 A) Establishment of Fire Protection Services (FPS) in the 1,053 local government
15 units with no existing fire protection services;
16
17 B) Upgrading of existing fire protection services;
18
19 C) Establishment of specialized fire protection and related services within the BFP to
20 respond to situations such as, but not limited to, high-rise building fires, forest
21 fires, aircraft/airport fires, ship fires, chemical fires, disaster rescue, emergency,
22 and medical operations; and
23
24 D) Establishment of training facilities, including the hiring of internationally
25 accredited training consultants and advisers, in the absence of local experts, in
26 order to accelerate the human resources development program.
27

28 **SEC. 4. Special Provident Fund.** - A special Provident Fund shall be created under
29 the BFP solely for the retirement, disability, and death benefits of the members and
30 scholarship programs for their dependents.
31

1 **SEC. 5. Budget.** - The amount of Eight Billion Pesos (P 8,000,000,000.00) for the
2 Fire Protection Modernization Program is hereby appropriated from the following sources:
3

4 A) P3.5 Billion - from the thirty-two and five tenths percent (32.5%) share of the
5 Armed Forces of the Philippines pursuant to Sec. 8 (1) of Republic Act No. 7227;
6

7 B) P2.5 Billion - from the income of Philippine Lottery;
8

9 C) P1.0 Billion - from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming
10 Corporation (PAGCOR); and
11

12 D) P1.0 Billion - to be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year
13 immediately preceding the effectivity of this Act.
14

15 **SEC. 6. Multi-Year Contracts or Other Contractual Arrangement.** - For the proper
16 implementation of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) may,
17 subject to the approval of the President, the provisions of existing laws and regulations
18 including those of the Commission on Audit, and under such terms and conditions favorable
19 to the Government, enter into multi-year contracts, lease/lease-purchase agreements or other
20 contractual arrangements with local or foreign suppliers/contractors.
21

22 **SEC. 7. Special Foreign Exchange Reduction Scheme.** - In order to reduce foreign
23 exchange outflow, generate local employment opportunities, and enhance technology transfer
24 to the Philippines, the DILG shall, as far as practicable, incorporate in each
25 contract/agreement special foreign exchange reduction schemes such as barter, counter trade,
26 in-country manufacture, co-production, build-operate transfer (BOT), or other innovative
27 arrangements or combinations thereof.
28

29 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** -Within thirty (30) days from the
30 approval of this Act, the DILG shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to
31 implement the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, That such implementing rules and
32 regulations shall ensure that the fire protection vehicles/crafts of various types,
33 communication equipment and facilities, and other support equipment will be equitably
34 distributed to the different fire units.
35

36 **SEC. 9. Annual Reports.** -The Chief Fire Marshal shall submit to the President and
37 Congress, through the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Governments, an
38 annual report on the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization Program as
39 provided for under this Act.
40

41 The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall submit to the President and
42 Congress an annual report on the status of the Fire Protection Modernization Program Trust
43 Fund as provided in Section 4 hereof.
44

45 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and
46 issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
47 modified accordingly.
48

1 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act is held
2 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby
3 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4
5 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
6 complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,