

**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City**

**Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 287



**Introduced by Representatives
Estrellita B. Suansing and Horacio P. Suansing, Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Cooperatives are among the major pillars of the people empowerment movement. They have long been acknowledged and regarded as one of the fundamental sources of economic strength in our country.

Cooperatives play a significant role in our country's local economic development, especially in rural areas where the absence of large spending power does not attract private investment to harness local skills and resources that can uplift the local economy and living standards besides exporting produce to distant customer locations in cities.

The Philippine Constitution provides for the promotion of growth and viability of cooperatives as instruments of equity, social justice and economic development under the principles of subsidiarity and self-help. Under the said principles, the government recognizes that cooperatives are self-governing entities which shall initiate and regulate their own affairs to include education, training, research and other support services with the government, giving assistance when necessary.

Given the importance of cooperatives, it is, therefore, imperative to amend Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, to provide for a mandatory appointment of a cooperatives officer in every local government unit in the country.

This bill has been filed during the 17th Congress and subsequently approved on Third and Final Reading. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT

MAKING THE POSITION OF A COOPERATIVES OFFICER MANDATORY IN THE MUNICIPAL, CITY AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 443, Book III, Title Two, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No.
2 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 443. *Officials of the Municipal Government.* –(a) There
4 shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice
5 mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the
6 sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor,
7 a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal
8 planning and development coordinator, a municipal
9 engineer/building official, a municipal health officer [and], a
10 municipal civil registrar, **AND A MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVES**
11 **OFFICER.**

12 "(b) x x x

13 "(c) x x x

14 "(d) x x x

15 "(e) x x x."

16 **SEC. 2.** Section 454, Book III, Title Three, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160,
17 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1 “SEC. 454. *Officials of the City Government.* – (a) There shall
2 be in each city a mayor, a vice mayor, sangguniang panlungsod
3 members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city
4 treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer,
5 a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a
6 city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city
7 legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and
8 development officer, [and] a city general services officer, **AND A**
9 **CITY COOPERATIVES OFFICER.**

10 “(b) In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a city
11 architect, a city information officer, a city agriculturist, a city
12 population officer, **AND** a city environment and natural resources
13 officer[, and a city cooperatives officer.]

14 “x x x

15 “(c) x x x

16 “(d) x x x

17 “(e) x x x.”

18 **SEC. 3.** Section 463, Book III, Title Four, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160,
19 is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 “SEC. 463. *Officials of the Provincial Government.* – (a) There
21 shall be in each province a governor, a vice governor, members of
22 the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang
23 panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a
24 provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget
25 officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a
26 provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial
27 health officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer,
28 a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist,
29 [and] a provincial veterinarian, **AND A PROVINCIAL**
30 **COOPERATIVES OFFICER.**

31 “(b) In addition thereto, the governor may appoint a
32 provincial population officer, a provincial natural resources and
33 environment officer, [a provincial cooperative officer], a provincial
34 architect, and a provincial information officer.

35 “x x x

36 “(c) x x x

37 “(d) x x x

"(e) x x x."

SEC. 4. Section 484 of Book III, Title Five, Article Fourteen of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

[Article Fourteen. – The Environment and Natural Resources Officer

SEC. 484. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. – (a) No person shall be appointed environment and natural resources officer unless he is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in environment, forestry, agriculture or any related course from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have acquired experience in environmental and natural resources management, conservation, and utilization, for at least five (5) years in the case of the provincial or city environment and natural resources officer, and three (3) years in the case of the municipal environment officer.

The appointment of the environment and natural resources officer is optional for the provincial, city, and municipal governments.

(b) The environment and natural resources management officer shall take charge of the office on environment and natural resources and shall:

(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 the 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, commercial forests and similar forest projects, 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 forests 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 disasters and calamities;

(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

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

“ARTICLE FOURTEEN. – THE COOPERATIVES OFFICER

“SEC. 484. QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES. –

(A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED COOPERATIVES OFFICER UNLESS ONE IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, A HOLDER OF A COLLEGE DEGREE PREFERABLY IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

1 WITH SPECIAL TRAINING IN COOPERATIVES OR ANY
2 RELATED COURSE FROM A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR
3 UNIVERSITY, A FIRST GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR
4 ITS EQUIVALENT. ONE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN
5 COOPERATIVES ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT FOR AT
6 LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS IN THE CASE OF PROVINCIAL OR
7 CITY COOPERATIVES OFFICER, AND THREE (3) YEARS IN
8 THE CASE OF MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVES OFFICER.

9 “(B) THE COOPERATIVES OFFICER SHALL TAKE
10 CHARGE OF THE OFFICE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
11 COOPERATIVES AND SHALL:

12 “(1) FORMULATE MEASURES FOR THE
13 CONSIDERATION OF THE SANGGUNIAN, AND PROVIDE
14 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR
15 OR MAYOR, AS THE CAE MAY BE, IN CARRYING OUT
16 MEASURES TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES
17 AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES THOUGH THE
18 DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES, AND IN PROVIDING
19 ACCESS TO SUCH SERVICES AND FACILITIES;

20 “(2) DEVELOP PLANS AND STRATEGIES AND, UPON
21 APPROVAL THEREOF BY THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS
22 THE CASE MAY BE, IMPLEMENT THE SAME, PARTICULARLY
23 THOSE WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH THE INTEGRATION OF
24 COOPERATIVES PRINCIPLES AND METHODS IN PROGRAMS
25 AND PROJECTS WHICH THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR IS
26 EMPOWERED TO IMPLEMENT AND WHICH THE
27 SANGGUNIAN IS EMPOWERED TO PROVIDE FOR UNDER
28 THIS CODE;

29 “(3) IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING DUTIES AND
30 FUNCTIONS, THE COOPERATIVES OFFICER SHALL:

31 “(I) ASSIST IN THE ORGANIZATION OF
32 COOPERATIVES;

33 “(II) PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND OTHER FORMS OF
34 ASSISTANCE TO EXISTING COOPERATIVES TO ENHANCE
35 THEIR VIABILITY AS AN ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND
36 SOCIAL ORGANIZATION;

37 “(III) ASSIST COOPERATIVES IN ESTABLISHING
38 LINKAGES WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND
39 NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE
40 PROMOTION AN INTEGRATION OF THE CONCEPT OF

1 **COOPERATIVES IN THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE AND**
2 **OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES;**

3 **"(4) BE IN THE FRONTLINE OF COOPERATIVES**
4 **ORGANIZATION, REHABILITATION OR VIABILITY-**
5 **ENHANCEMENT, PARTICULARLY DURING AND IN THE**
6 **AFTERMATH OF MAN-MADE AND NATURAL DISASTERS AND**
7 **CALAMITIES, TO AID IN THEIR SURVIVAL, AND, IF**
8 **NECESSARY, SUBSEQUENT REHABILITATION;**

9 **"(5) RECOMMEND TO THE SANGGUNIAN, AND ADVISE**
10 **THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, ON ALL**
11 **MATTERS RELATIVE TO COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT**
12 **AND VIABILITY-ENHANCEMENT WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE**
13 **LIVELIHOOD AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE INHABITANTS;**
14 **AND**

15 **"(C) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM**
16 **SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE**
17 **PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR ORDINANCE."**

18 **SEC. 5.** Section 487 of Book III, Title Five, Article Seventeen of Republic Act
19 No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 **"ARTICLE SEVENTEEN. – THE ENVIRONMENT AND**
21 **NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER**

22 **"SEC. 487. QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES. –**
23 **(A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED ENVIRONMENT AND**
24 **NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER UNLESS ONE IS A CITIZEN**
25 **OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL**
26 **GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, OF GOOD MORAL**
27 **CHARACTER, A HOLDER OF A COLLEGE DEGREE**
28 **PREFERABLY IN ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE**
29 **OR ANY RELATED COURSE FROM A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE**
30 **OR UNIVERSITY, AND A FIRST GRADE CIVIL SERVICE**
31 **ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT. ONE MUST HAVE ACQUIRED**
32 **EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
33 **MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION, AND UTILIZATION, FOR AT**
34 **LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE PROVINCIAL**
35 **OR CITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
36 **OFFICER, AND THREE (3) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE**
37 **MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
38 **OFFICER.**

1 **"THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND**
2 **NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER IS OPTIONAL FOR**
3 **PROVINCIAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS.**

4 **"(B) THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
5 **MANAGEMENT OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE**
6 **OFFICE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND**
7 **SHALL:**

8 **"(1) FORMULATE MEASURES FOR THE**
9 **CONSIDERATION OF THE SANGGUNIAN AND PROVIDE**
10 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR**
11 **OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN CARRYING OUT**
12 **MEASURES TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES**
13 **AND PROVISION OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES RELATIVE TO**
14 **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICES AS**
15 **PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 17 OF THIS CODE;**

16 **"(2) DEVELOP PLANS AND STRATEGIES AND UPON**
17 **APPROVAL THEREOF BY THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS**
18 **THE CASE MAY BE, IMPLEMENT THE SAME, PARTICULARLY**
19 **THOSE WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH ENVIRONMENT AND**
20 **NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WHICH**
21 **THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR IS EMPOWERED TO**
22 **IMPLEMENT AND WHICH THE SANGGUNIAN IS EMPOWERED**
23 **TO PROVIDE FOR UNDER THIS CODE;**

24 **"(3) IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING DUTIES AND**
25 **FUNCTIONS, THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL**
26 **RESOURCES OFFICER SHALL:**

27 **"(I) ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND PRESERVE**
28 **COMMUNAL FORESTS, WATERSHEDS, TREE PARKS,**
29 **MANGROVES, GREENBELTS, COMMERCIAL FORESTS AND**
30 **SIMILAR FOREST PROJECTS, LIKE INDUSTRIAL TREE**
31 **F FARMS AND AGRO-FORESTRY PROJECTS;**

32 **"(II) PROVIDE EXTENSION SERVICES TO**
33 **BENEFICIARIES OF FOREST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND**
34 **TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
35 **ASSISTANCE;**

36 **"(III) MANAGE AND MAINTAIN SEED BANKS AND**
37 **PRODUCE SEEDLINGS FOR FORESTS AND TREE PARKS;**

38 **"(IV) PROVIDE EXTENSION SERVICES TO**
39 **BENEFICIARIES OF FOREST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND**

1 **RENDER ASSISTANCE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES-RELATED
2 CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION ACTIVITIES
3 CONSISTENT WITH ECOLOGICAL BALANCE;**

4 **"(V) PROMOTE THE SMALL-SCALE MINING AND
5 UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY
6 MINING OF GOLD;**

7 **"(VI) COORDINATE WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
8 AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE
9 IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES AND PREVENT AND
10 CONTROL LAND, AIR AND WATER POLLUTION WITH THE
11 ASSISTANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
12 NATURAL RESOURCES;**

13 **"(4) BE IN THE FRONTLINE OF THE DELIVERY OF
14 SERVICES CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
15 RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY IN THE RENEWAL AND
16 REHABILITATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT DURING AND IN
17 THE AFTERMATH OF MAN-MADE AND NATURAL DISASTERS
18 AND CALAMITIES;**

19 **"(5) RECOMMEND TO THE SANGGUNIAN AND ADVISE
20 THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, ON ALL
21 MATTERS RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION,
22 CONSERVATION, MAXIMUM UTILIZATION, APPLICATION OF
23 APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER MATTERS
24 RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
25 RESOURCES; AND**

26 **"(C) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM
27 SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE
28 PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR ORDINANCE."**

29 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
30 regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby
31 repealed or amended accordingly.

32 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
33 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,