

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4707



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Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

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#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Yearly, fire incidents wreak numerous homes and businesses all over the country. This year alone, there were 11,917 fire incidents that transpired nationwide. This total number of fire incidents that transpired in the country from January to June 2019 is higher by 108.69% compared to the same period last year with 2,706 recorded fire incidents.

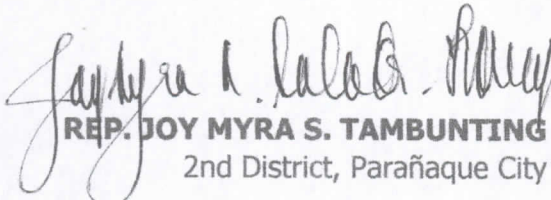
Bureau of Fire Protection which was created through Republic Act No. 6975 is primarily responsible for the prevention and suppression of all destructive fires; and the enforcement of the New Fire Code of the Philippines (RA 9514) and other related laws. The BFP is also mandated to assist the AFP in times of national emergency.

With such tremendous responsibilities, it is imperative for the state to strengthen the bureau in order for it to effectively deliver fire protection services, and perform such other functions mandated to it.

This bill proposes to establish fire stations and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in all local government units (LGUs). It shall also ensure that the bureau is armed with the necessary gear and equipment to effectively perform its functions. This bill also provides for the acceleration of the personnel development program through the establishment of training facilities and hiring of training consultants for the newly recruited personnel.

This proposed measure is based upon House Bill No. 2728 which was filed by Representative Gary Alejandro during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**  
2nd District, Parañaque City

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**AN ACT ORDAINING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE  
PROTECTION (BFP)**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Fire Protection Modernization Act of 2019."

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

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

- a) Establishment of Fire Protection Service (FPS) in all local government units with no existing fire protection services;
- b) Upgrading of existing fire protection equipment and services;
- c) Establishment of specialized fire protection and related services within the BFP such as but not limited to; high-rise building fires, forest fires, aircraft/airport fires, ship fires, chemical fires, disaster rescue services, emergency medical services, and the like; and;
- d) Establishment of training facilities, including the hiring of internationally accredited training consultants and advisers if experts of equal qualification cannot be secured locally, to accelerate the personnel development program.

**SEC. 4. Special Provident Fund.** - A special provident fund shall be created under the BFP solely for the retirement, disability, and death benefits for members and scholarship for dependents.

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



- a) ₱2.5 Billion from the income of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office;
- b) ₱1 Billion from the income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR); and
- c) ₱4.5 Billion to be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year immediately preceding the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 6. Multi-Year Contracts or Other Contractual Arrangement.** - The Secretary of Interior and Local Government may, subject to the approval of the President, under provisions of existing laws and regulations including those of the Commission on Audit and under such terms and conditions favorable to the government, enter into multi-year contracts, lease-purchase agreements, or other contractual agreements with local or foreign suppliers/contractors in the implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 7. Special Foreign Exchange Reduction Scheme.** - In order to reduce foreign exchange outflow, generate local employment opportunities, and enhance technology transfer to the Philippines, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall, as far as feasible, incorporate in each contract agreement special foreign exchange reduction schemes such as barter, counter-trade, in-country manufacture, co-production, build-operate-transfer (BOT), or other innovative arrangements or combinations thereof.

**SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act; Provided, that such implementing rules and regulations shall ensure that the fire protection vehicles crafts of various types, communication equipment, facilities, and other support equipment will be equitably distributed to the different fire units for the better realization of the envisioned objectives of this Act.

**SEC. 9. Annual Reports.** - The Chief Fire Marshall shall submit to the President and Congress, through the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, an annual report containing the process of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization program as provided for in this Act. The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall submit to the President and Congress an annual report of the status of Fire Protection Modernization Program Trust Fund as provided for by Section 4 hereof.

**SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** - If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other pruts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 12. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*