

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4887



Introduced by Representative ALYSSA SHEENA TAN

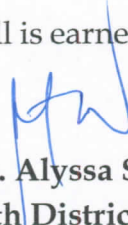
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) was established by virtue of Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990. Its role and functions were further reinforced by the passage of Republic Act No. 9514, also known as the Revised Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008. In 2010, the BFP launched its Modernization Program pursuant to R.A. No. 9514 which aimed to upgrade the government's firefighting capability with adequate personnel and equipment in order to safeguard the public from the hazards of destructive fire. However, according to the Performance Audit Report conducted by the Commission on Audit (COA), there is still shortage in equipage and personnel in the BFP. As of June 30, 2018, there are 1, 584 units or 44% shortage in fire trucks; 11, 593 firemen or 36% short based on ideal number; 11,119 or 64% firemen without complete set of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); and 308 municipalities that still do not have their own fire stations. Based on the same report, it was revealed that the leading cause of fire incidence is problems on electrical connections with an average occurrence of 66% while structural type of occupancy was the most affected which are mostly residential with 56% share of the total incidents.

This bill seeks to strengthen the Bureau of Fire Protection and uphold its mandate by addressing the three (3) major reasons for the increasing fire incidence namely: lack of fire suppression capability; lack of public awareness on fire suppression; and absence of signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the BFP and the major stakeholders. These recurring problems are what the modernization program is for in order to resolve the gaps hindering the efficient and economical provision of fire protection services. More importantly, it aims to conduct the employment of more trained personnel as well as the procurement of modern fire equipment in order to maximize the services for public safety. In addition, the bill aims to establish an efficient and reliable monitoring scheme to keep track of the projects implemented by the modernization program and ensure their timely

accomplishment. Lastly, this bill intends to encourage BFP's continued partnership with key stakeholders for a coordinated effort in safeguarding the public from the hazards of destructive fires.

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



Atty. Alyssa Sheena Tan
Representative, 4th District of Isabela

- 47 c) Respond to disasters, whether manmade or natural, and respond to
48 other emergencies, including rescue, emergency medical, hazardous
49 materials (hazmat), chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and
50 explosive (CBRNE) materials, and other emergencies;
51
52 d) Conduct monthly fire prevention campaigns and information drive in
53 all local government units, particularly in informal settler areas and
54 economically depressed areas, in coordination with the Department of
55 Interior and Local Government (DILG); and
56
57 e) Require the building owner to submit plans and specifications of the
58 said building and other pertinent documents as may be determined by
59 BFP and evaluate the same to ensure compliance with the Fire Code
60 and other applicable codes and standards. For this purpose, a fire
61 safety evaluation clearance shall be issued as a prerequisite for the
62 issuance of the building permit.
63

64 **SEC 4. Fire Protection Modernization Program.** - The Bureau of Fire
65 Protection, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local
66 Government. (DILG), shall establish and implement a Fire Protection
67 Modernization Program, which shall consist of the following components:
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69

- 70 a) *Fire Protection Service.* - The modernization program shall include the
71 establishment of Fire Protection Service (FPS) in all local government
72 units with no existing fire protection services, and the establishment of
73 rescue hotlines in all local government units;
74
75 b) *Force Restructuring and Organizational Development.* - The
76 modernization program shall develop the Bureau of Fire Protection
77 into an efficient, responsive and modern agency of the Department of
78 the Interior and Local Government with the capability to implement
79 Republic Act No. 9514 otherwise known as the Fire Code of the
80 Philippines. The Bureau of Fire Protection, within ninety (90) days
81 from the promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations
82 (IRR) of this Act, shall recommend and submit to the Secretaries of
83 Department of the Interior and Local Government and Department of
84 Budget and Management the revised organizational structure and
85 staffing pattern for officers and personnel of the BFP. The revised
86 organizational structure shall include all the offices of the BFP, the Fire
87 Training Service, and the BFP Central and Regional Hospitals. The BFP
88 shall design and establish a qualifications upgrading program for the
89 BFP officers and personnel in accordance with the Civil Service
90 Commission rules and regulations;
91

92 c) *Monitoring and Evaluation Services.* - The modernization program shall
93 put in place a monitoring and evaluation scheme to be supervised by
94 the Regional Offices in order to track the individual progress of each of
95 its component to be able to strengthen its monitoring on the projects
96 implemented and ensure their timely completion. The BFP shall
97 likewise further develop its partnership with key stakeholders for a
98 coordinated effort in safeguarding the populace from the hazards of
99 destructive fires.

100
101 d) *Material and Technology Development.* - The modernization program
102 shall upgrade existing fire protection equipment and services and
103 acquire new equipment for fire protection: *Provided*, the acquisition of
104 new equipment shall be synchronized with the phase-out of
105 uneconomical and obsolete major equipment and weapons systems in
106 the BFP inventory;

107
108 e) *Specialized Services Development.* - The modernization program shall
109 establish specialized fire protection services within the BFP such as but
110 not limited to; high-rise building fires, forest fires, aircraft/airport fires,
111 ship fires, chemical fires, disaster rescue services, emergency medical
112 services, and the like; and

113
114 f) *Human Resource Development.* - The modernization program shall
115 include trainings for BFP personnel and establish training facilities,
116 hire internationally accredited training consultants and advisers if
117 experts of equal qualification cannot be secured locally, to accelerate
118 the personnel development program. All newly appointed uniformed
119 personnel of the BFP shall undergo a Mandatory Training Program.

120
121 Within one hundred eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
122 Secretary of DILG and the BFP Chief shall submit the details of the Fire
123 Protection Modernization Program to Congress.

124
125 **SEC. 5. *Multi-Year Contracts or Other Contractual Arrangement.*** - The
126 Secretary of Interior and Local Government may, subject to the approval of
127 the President, under provisions of existing laws and regulations including
128 those of the Commission on Audit and under such terms and conditions
129 favorable to the government, enter into multi-year contracts or other
130 contractual agreements with local or foreign suppliers or contractors in the
131 implementation of this Act.

132
133 **SEC. 6. *Annual Report.*** - The BFP shall submit to the Office of the President
134 and Congress, through the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, an
135 annual report containing the process and status of the implementation of the
136 Fire Protection Modernization Program.

138 **SEC 7. *Period of Implementation.*** - The Fire Protection Modernization
139 Program under this Act, shall be implemented over a period of three (3) years
140 effective upon the date of the approval of this Act: Provided, that payments
141 for amortization of outstanding multi-year contract obligations incurred
142 under the modernization program may extend beyond this period.

143
144 **SEC 8. *Appropriation.*** - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of
145 this Act shall be sourced from the BFP Modernization Trust Fund as provided
146 for in Republic Act No. 9514. An additional amount of Five Billion Pesos
147 (P5,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to be included in the General
148 Appropriations Act of the year immediately following the effectivity of this
149 Act.

150
151 **SEC 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within thirty (30) days from
152 the approval of this Act, the BFP and DILG shall promulgate the rules and
153 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

154
155 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** - Any portion or provision of this Act that is
156 declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions
157 or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and
158 be given effect in their entirety.

159
160 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other
161 issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby
162 repealed or modified accordingly.

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164 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
165 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

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167 *Approved,*
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