

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**House Bill No. 6462**



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**INTRODUCED BY HON. LUIS JOSE ANGEL N. CAMPOS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to further professionalize and empower member of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to serve as medical first responders.

In developed countries, firemen are at the forefront of emergency first response. From conflagration and floods to vehicular accidents and even rescuing pets, fire officers are the most common heroes to save the day. In the Philippines, however, firemen are predominantly perceived as limited to fire fighting and saving people from unfriendly and destructive fire. This undermines the capacity of firemen to save lives, not only from fire, but more importantly from possible injuries and deaths caused by various emergencies and hazards.

Before actual deployment, firemen undergo a four-month house-in-camp training which includes application of advanced first aid at the National Fire Training Institute in Canlubang, Laguna. But they lack standard certification from accrediting institutions. Even the BFP does not issue a certification that graduate of their fire officers' training program are qualified first responders. Although the existing pre-employment training policies and programs of the BFP require that they pass physical and aptitude tests including emergency medical first responders' training, there is still a need to institutionalize and highlight this crucial competency and duty.

This proposed bill will require fire officers to become adept, not just in suppressing fire but also in responding to medical emergencies caused by fire and other disasters. By institutionalizing training and certification of fire officers as medical first responders, the people are assured that the BFP is capable of holistically managing fire incidents and disasters. Each fire station is proposed to have at least once certified emergency medical technician who can attend to more complicated cases and can operate sophisticated emergency medical equipment whenever necessary.

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

  
**LUIS JOSE ANGEL N. CAMPOS, JR.**



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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING PERSONNEL OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION TO BE**  
**CERTIFIED FIRST RESPONDERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC**  
**ACT NO. 9263, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BUREAU OF FIRE**  
**PROTECTION AND BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY**  
**PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 2014**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 8 of Republic Act No. 9263, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 8. *Professionalization and Qualifications Upgrading Program.* - The DILG shall design and establish a professionalization and qualifications upgrading program for the uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP in coordination with the CSC and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) through an off-campus education program or other similar programs within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

AFTER THE APPOINTMENT OF UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OF THE BFP, RECRUITS MUST UNDERGO AND COMPLETE THE PUBLIC SAFETY BASIC RECRUIT COURSE. THE COMPONENTS AND COURSE DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY BASIC RECRUIT COURSE SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNAL RULES AND REGULATIONS ON MANDATORY TRAINING, LOCAL SCHOOLING, SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP WHICH ARE ISSUED BY THE BFP. THE COMPLETION OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY BASIC RECRUIT COURSE PROVIDES THE FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NECESSARY FOR ACHIEVING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF FIRE PERSONNEL COMPETENCE, INCLUDING ADVANCED FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE. GRADUATES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY BASIC RECRUIT COURSE MUST BE GIVEN THE APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATION.

FOR EVERY FIRE STATION, THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR FIRE PROTECTION SHALL APPOINT OR DESIGNATE, FROM AMONG THE UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OF THE BFP WITH A RANK OF FIRE

OFFICER II TO SENIOR FIRE OFFICER IV, AT LEAST ONE (1) UNIFORMED PERSONNEL TO ACT AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN WHO WILL SUPERVISE FIRE OFFICERS IN RESPONDING TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.

AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN REFERS TO A TRAINED AND CERTIFIED PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE PROVIDER WHO IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING EXTENSIVE PRE-HOSPITAL CARE SERVICES SUCH AS ADVANCED FIRST AID LEVEL CARE, ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATIONS AND CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION; ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS ORALLY AND INTRAVENOUSLY; AND USING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR AND OTHER COMPLEX EMERGENCY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT.

A NEW RECRUIT TO THE BFP MUST COMPLY WITH THE ADDITIONAL TRAINING QUALIFICATION PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SECTION. UNIFORMED PERSONNEL WHO ARE ALREADY IN THE SERVICE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017 SHALL BE GIVEN FIVE (5) YEARS TO OBTAIN THE MINIMUM CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AS MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER. THE BFP PERSONNEL DESIGNATED AS FIRE STATION EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN MUST POSSESS APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATION AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN IN ADDITION TO THEIR TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION AS MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER: *PROVIDED*, THAT UNIFORMED BFP PERSONNEL WHO HAVE RENDERED MORE THAN FIFTEEN (15) YEARS OF SERVICE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019 SHALL NO LONGER BE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AS MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER."

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,