

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



19 JAN 28 P3:44

SENATE

S.B. No. 2181

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Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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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"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 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.

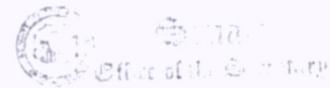
Cooperatives play a very vital role in our country's economy, especially in far-flung areas where the delivery of basic services of the government do not reach the marginalized. This mechanism of the sector that tackles and addresses social issues such as poverty, unemployment, etc. to the grassroots level makes it a valuable ally of the government in nation-building. Given the significance of the sector in economic development, it is but essential to amend RA 7160 to provide for the mandatory appointment of a cooperatives officer in every local government unit in the country.

This measure seeks to amend the Local Government Code to make mandatory the position of Cooperatives Officer in all provinces, cities, and municipalities. And by doing so, the affairs and activities of cooperatives in every province, city, and municipality will be in sync and harmonized with the development plans of the national government.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**

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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. 7160,  
2       is hereby amended to read as follows:

3       "SEC. 433. *Officials of the Municipal Government.* —

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

10      "(b) x x x

11      "(c) x x x

12      "(d) x x x

13      "(e) x x x."

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

16      "SEC. 454. *Officials of the City Government.* —

17       (a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice mayor, sangguniang  
18       panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city  
19       treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city  
20       planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer,

1 a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city  
2 veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, [and] a city  
3 general services officer, **AND A CITY COOPERATIVES OFFICER.**

4 "(b) In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a city; architect, a  
5 city information officer, a city agriculturist, a city population officer, **AND** a  
6 city environment and natural resources officer [, AND a city cooperatives  
7 officer].

8 "x x x .

9 "(c) x x x

10 "(d) x x x

11 " (e) x x x . "

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

14 "SEC. 463. *Officials of the Provincial Government.* —

15 (a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice governor, members  
16 of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang  
17 panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial  
18 accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a  
19 provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal  
20 officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial  
21 social welfare and development officer, a provincial general services officer,  
22 a provincial agriculturist, [and] a provincial veterinarian, **AND A**  
23 **PROVINCIAL COOPERATIVES OFFICER.**

24 "(b) In addition thereto, the governor may appoint a provincial population  
25 officer, a provincial natural resources and environment officer, [a provincial  
26 cooperative officer,] a provincial architect, and a provincial information  
27 officer.

28 "x x x

29 "(c) x x x

30 "(d) x x x

31 " (e) x x x."

32 **SEC. 4.** Section 484 of Book III, Title Five, Article Fourteen of Republic Act No.  
33 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 [Article Fourteen. — The Environment and Natural Resources Officer

35 SEC. 484. Qualifications, Powers and Duties. - (a) No person shall  
36 be appointed environment and natural resources officer unless he is a  
37 citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the local government unit concerned,  
38 of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in

1 environment, forestry, agriculture or any related course from a recognized  
2 college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent.  
3 He must have acquired experience in environmental and natural resources  
4 management, conservation, and utilization, for at least five (5) years in the  
5 case of the provincial or city environment and natural resources officer, and  
6 three (3) years in the case of the municipal environment and natural  
7 resources officer.

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

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

13 (1) Formulate measures for the consideration of the sanggunian and  
14 provide technical assistance and support to the governor or mayor, as the  
15 case may be, in carrying out measures to ensure the delivery of basic  
16 services and provision of adequate facilities relative to environment and  
17 natural resources services as provided for under Section 17 of this Code;

18 (2) Develop plans and strategies and upon approval thereof by the  
19 governor or mayor, as the case may be, implement the same, particularly  
20 those which have to do with environment and natural resources programs  
21 and projects which the governor or mayor is empowered to implement and  
22 which the sanggunian is empowered to provide for under this Code;

23 (3) In addition to the foregoing duties and functions, the environment  
24 and natural resources officer shall:

25 (i) Establish, maintain, protect and preserve communal forests,  
26 watersheds, tree parks, mangroves, greenbelts, commercial forests and  
27 similar forest projects, like industrial tree farms and agro-forestry projects;

28 (ii) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development  
29 projects and technical, financial and infrastructure assistance;

30 (iii) Manage and maintain seed banks and produce seedlings for  
31 forests and tree parks;

32 (iv) Provide extension services to beneficiaries of forest development  
33 projects and render assistance for natural resources-related conservation  
34 and utilization activities consistent with ecological balance;

35 (v) Promote the small-scale mining and utilization of mineral  
36 resources, particularly mining of gold;

37 (vi) Coordinate with government agencies and non-governmental  
38 organizations in the implementation of measures to prevent and control  
39 land, air and water pollution with the assistance of the Department of  
40 Environment and Natural Resources;

41 (4) Be in the frontline of the delivery of services concerning the  
42 environment and natural resources, particularly in the renewal and

1       rehabilitation of the environment during and in the aftermath of man-  
2       made and natural disasters and calamities;

3       (5) Recommend to the sanggunian and advise the governor or  
4       mayor, as the case may be, on all matters relative to the protection,  
5       conservation, maximum utilization, application of appropriate technology  
6       and other matters related to the environment and natural resources; and

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

9       **"ARTICLE FOURTEEN. - THE COOPERATIVES OFFICER**

10      **"SEC . 484. QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES. -**

11      (A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED COOPERATIVES  
12       UNLESS ONE IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A  
13       RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT  
14       CONCERNED, OF MORAL CHARACTER, A HOLDER OF A  
15       COLLEGE DEGREE PREFERABLY IN BUSINESS  
16       ADMINISTRATION WITH SPECIAL TRAINING IN  
17       COOPERATIVES OR ANY RELATED COURSE FROM A  
18       RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, AND A FIRST  
19       GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT.  
20       ONE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE IN COOPERATIVES  
21       ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT FOR AT LEAST FIVE  
22       (5) YEARS IN THE CASE OF PROVINCIAL OR CITY  
23       COOPERATIVES OFFICER, AND THREE (3) YEARS IN THE  
24       CASE OF MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVES OFFICER.

25      "(B) THE COOPERATIVES OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE  
26       OF THE OFFICE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
27       COOPERATIVES AND SHALL:

28      "(1) FORMULATE MEASURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION  
29       OF THE SANGGUNIAN, AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL  
30       ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR OR  
31       MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN CARRYING OUT  
32       MEASURES TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC  
33       SERVICES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES THROUGH THE  
34       DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES, AND IN PROVIDING  
35       ACCESS TO SUCH SERVICES AND FACILITIES;

36      "(2) DEVELOP PLANS AND STRATEGIES AND, UPON  
37       APPROVAL THEREOF BY THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS  
38       THE CASE MAY BE, IMPLEMENT THE SAME, PARTICULARLY  
39       THOSE WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH THE INTEGRATION OF  
40       COOPERATIVES PRINCIPLES AND METHODS IN  
41       PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WHICH THE GOVERNOR OR  
42       MAYOR IS EMPOWERED TO IMPLEMENT AND WHICH THE  
43       SANGGUNIAN IS EMPOWERED TO PROVTE FOR UNDER  
44       THIS CODE;

1           " (3) IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING DUTIES AND  
2           FUNCTIONS, THE COOPERATIVES OFFICER SHALL:

3           " (I) ASSIST IN THE ORGANIZATION OF COOPERATIVES;

4           " (II) PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND OTHER FORMS OF  
5           ASSISTANCE TO EXISTING COOPERATIVES TO ENHANCE  
6           THEIR VIABILITY AS AN ECONOMIC ENTERPRISE AND  
7           SOCIAL ORGANIZATION;

8           " (III) ASSIST COOPERATIVES IN ESTABLISHING  
9           LINKAGES WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND  
10          NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE  
11          PROMOTION AND INTEGRATION OF THE CONCEPT OF  
12          COOPERATIVES IN THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE  
13          AND OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES;

14          " (4) BE IN THE FRONTLINE OF COOPERATIVES  
15          ORGANIZATION, REHABILITATION OR VIABILITY-  
16          ENHANCEMENT, PARTICULARLY DURING AND IN THE  
17          AFTERMATH OF MAN-MADE AND NATURAL DISASTERS  
18          AND CALAMITIES, TO AID IN THEIR SURVIVAL AND,  
19          IF NECESSARY, SUBSEQUENT REHABILITATION;

20          " (5) RECOMMEND TO THE SANGGUNIAN, AND ADVISE  
21          THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, ON ALL  
22          MATTERS RELATIVE TO COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT  
23          AND VIABILITY-ENHANCEMENT WHICH WILL IMPROVE  
24          THE LIVELIHOOD AND QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE  
25          INHABITANTS; 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. 5.** Section 487 of Book III, Title Five, Article Seventeen of Republic Act No.  
30          7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

31          **"ARTICLE SEVENTEEN. - THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL  
32          RESOURCES OFFICER**

33          **" SEC. 487. QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES. -**

34          **(A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED ENVIRONMENT AND  
35          NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER UNLESS ONE IS A CITIZEN OF  
36          THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
37          UNIT CONCERNED, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, A HOLDER OF  
38          A COLLEGE DEGREE PREFERABLY IN ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY,  
39          AGRICULTURE OR ANY RELATED COURSE FROM A RECOGNIZED  
40          COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, AND A FIRST GRADE CIVIL SERVICE  
41          ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT. ONE MUST HAVE ACQUIRED  
42          EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
43          MANAGEMENT, CONSERVATION, AND UTILIZATION, FOR AT  
44          LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE PROVINCIAL OR**

1 CITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER, AND  
2 THREE (3) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE MUNICIPAL  
3 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER.

4 "THE APPOINTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMNET AND NATURAL  
5 RESOURCES OFFICER IS OPTIONAL FOR PROVINCIAL, CITY,  
6 AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS.

7 "(B) THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
8 MANAGEMENT OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICEON  
9 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND SHALL;

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

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

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

29 "(I) ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, PROTECT AND PRESERVE  
30 COMMUNAL FORESTS, WATERSHEDS, TREE PARKS, MANGROVES,  
31 GREENBELTS, COMMERCIAL FORESTS AND SIMILAR FOREST  
32 PROJECT, LI KE INDUSTRIAL TREE FARMS AND AGRO-FORESTRY  
33 PROJECTS ;

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

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

39 "(IV) PROVIDE EXTENSION SERVICES TO THE  
40 BENEFICIARIES OF FOREST DEVELOPMENET PROJECTS AND  
41 RENDER ASSISTANCE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES-RELATED  
42 CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION ACTIVITIES CONSISTENT  
43 WITH ECOLOGICAL BALANCE;

1                         "(V) PROMOTE THE SMALL-SCALE MINING AND  
2 UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY  
3 MINING OF GOLD;

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

10                         "(4) BE IN THE FRONTLINE OF THE DELIVERY OF SERVICES  
11 CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
12 PARTICULARLY IN THE RENEWAL AND REHABILITATION OF THE  
13 ENVIRONMENT DURING AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF MAN-MADE  
14 AND NATURAL DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES;

15                         "(5) RECOMMEND TO THE SANGGUNIAN AND ADVISE THE  
16 GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, ON ALL MATTERS  
17 RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION, CONSERVATION, MAXIMUM  
18 UTILIZATION, APPLICATION OF APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY  
19 AND OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
20 NATURAL RESOURCES; AND

21                         "(C) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM SUCH  
22 OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW  
23 OR ORDINANCE."

24                         **SEC. 6.** *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
25 regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or  
26 amended accordingly.

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

Approved,