

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH (17th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 446



Introduced by REP. JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill entitled, "*An Act Amending Section 393, Paragraph (D) of Republic Act No. 7160, Otherwise Known as the Local Government Code of 1991, Providing Funds Therefore and for Other Purposes*" on the same subject matter was originally filed as House Bill No. 590 in the 16th Congress by this representation.

The Barangay Public Safety Officers (BPSO) play an important role in our communities. They are the frontliners in anti-crime programs and activities in the barangay, particularly where police presence is rare or scarce. In some instances, services of the BPSO have also been tapped in disaster relief operations and other emergency situations. Their safety are generally compromised.

Section 393, paragraph (d) of the Local Government Code provides that every barangay is entitled to have not more than twenty (20) barangay tanods or its equivalent to help in maintaining peace and order in the community.

The 20 tanod cap is not realistic. In District 6, Quezon City, for example, a medium-sized barangay has an average population of about 50,000. This means that complying with the cap provided under RA 7160, the ratio is 1 tanod is to 2,500 residents. Such ratio will make it difficult, if not near impossible for the BPSO's to dispense with their duties properly, and for the barangay to pursue part of its mandate. Most often, barangays which have huge land area employ more than what the law provides to address their actual needs in maintaining peace and order.

To safeguard the safety of their communities, the barangays usually retain additional personnel, which they treat as volunteers, and given only allowances. Despite performing similar functions as the regular BPSO members. These volunteers are not properly compensated.

It is in this light that this bill is being introduced to remove the 20-tanod limit under RA 7160, providing a way to increase the number of BPSO's in proportion to the number of residents in the barangay.

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

[Signature]



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1
2 **AN ACT**

3 **CHANGING INCREASING THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF BARANGAY PUBLIC**
4 **SAFETY OFFICERS (BPSO) THEREBY AMENDING SECTION 393, PARAGRAPH**
5 **(D) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL**
6 **GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR**
7 **OTHER PURPOSES**

8
9 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the*
10 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*

11 **SECTION. 1. Declaration of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to maintain peace
12 and order in all localities within its territory and to provide auxiliary support to its national
13 police by establishing barangay public safety brigades or barangay tanods in all barangays
14 nationwide. It is likewise an established state policy that all peacekeeping officers, including
15 barangay tanods, are provided adequate means for their upkeep and protection.

16 **SEC. 2. Original Provision.** - SEC. 393, paragraph (d) provides, thus: "All duly
17 appointed members of the barangay tanod brigades, or their equivalent, which shall number
18 not more than twenty (20) in each barangay, shall be granted insurance or other benefits
19 during incumbency, chargeable to the barangay or the city or municipal government to which
20 the barangay belongs.

21 **SEC. 3. Amendatory Clause.** - SEC. 393, paragraph (d) of Republic Act Numbered
22 7160 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

23 "THERE SHALL BE APPOINTED BARANGAY PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS
24 (BPSO) IN EACH BARANGAY WHOSE NUMBER SHALL BE COMPUTED IN
25 A SCALE OF TEN (10) BPSO MEMBERS PER ONE THOUSAND (1,000)
26 RESIDENTS, BUT IN NO CASE SHALL BE LESS THAN TWENTY (20)
27 REGARDLESS OF THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS AND LAND AREA OF THE

1 BARANGAY. THE APPOINTED BPSO MEMBERS SHALL BE GRANTED A
2 MANDATORY LIFE INSURANCE AND OTHER BENEFITS ENJOYED BY
3 CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES DURING THEIR INCUMBENCY,
4 CHARGEABLE TO THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY TO WHICH THEIR
5 BARANGAY BELONGS.”

6 **SEC. 4. *Amendment of Existing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within six (6) months
7 following the approval of the President of this amendatory law, the Department of the Interior
8 and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management and the Civil Service
9 Commission shall accordingly amend, revise, repeal or modify existing rules and regulations
10 to conform to the amended provision.

11 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause*** - All Acts, Decrees, Executive Orders and Rules and
12 Regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
13 accordingly.

14 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
15 publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

16 *Approved,*