Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7406

Introduced by

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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

2 Protection Modernization Act."
SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires, natural or human-induced. Towards this end, the State shall modernize the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to improve and enhance its firefighting and disaster-response capabilities, thereby establishing and implementing a Fire Protection Modernization Program.

SEC. 3. Additional Functions of the BFP. - Aside from its existing functions under Republic Act No. 9514, otherwise known as the "Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008", and Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the "Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990", the BFP shall have the following functions:

a) Prevent and suppress all destructive fires in all buildings, houses and other structures, and economic zones including agro-industrial economic zones, free ports and special economic zones, information technology (IT) parks/centers, manufacturing economic zones, medical tourism parks/centers, tourism economic zones, and other similar entities;

b) Establish and maintain regional arson laboratories and research and testing facilities with complete equipment;

c) Respond to disasters, whether natural or human-induced, and other emergencies, including rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous materials (HAZMAT), chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) materials, and other emergencies;
d) Conduct, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), monthly fire prevention campaigns and information drive in all local government units, particularly in informal settler areas and economically depressed areas; and

e) Issue a fire safety evaluation clearance as a prerequisite for the issuance of a building permit, after evaluating and ensuring that the required plans and specifications of the building and other pertinent documents submitted by building owners are compliant with the Fire Code and other applicable codes and standards.

SEC. 4. Fire Protection Modernization Program. - The Bureau of Fire Protection, in coordination with the DILG, shall establish and implement a Fire Protection Modernization Program, hereinafter to be referred to as the Program. The Program shall have the following components:

a) Fire Protection Service - The Program shall include the establishment of Fire Protection Service (FPS) in all local government units with no existing fire protection services, and the establishment of a single platform of emergency hotlines that shall be integrated with the “911” Hotline program of the DILG in all local government units;

b) Force Restructuring and Organizational Development. - The modernization program shall develop the BFP into a compact, efficient, responsible, and modern firefighting force with the capability to implement Republic Act No. 9514. Within ninety (90) days from the promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act, the BFP shall recommend and submit to the
Department of Budget and Management (DBM), through the DILG, the revised
organizational structure and staffing pattern for officers and personnel of the
BFP. The revised organizational structure shall include all the offices of the BFP,
specifically the National Headquarters, the regional, provincial, district, city, and
municipal fire stations, the Fire Training Service, and the BFP Central and
Regional Hospitals. The BFP shall design and establish a qualifications
upgrading program for the BFP officers and personnel in accordance with the
Civil Service Commission rules and regulations;
c) Capability, Material, and Technology Development – Upon the effectivity of this
Act, the existing fire protection equipment and services of the BFP shall be
upgraded through the acquisition of new and more modern equipment: Provided,
That the acquisition of new equipment shall be synchronized with the phasing-out
of uneconomical and obsolete major equipment and weapons systems in the
BFP inventory;
d) Specialized Services Development – Under the Program, the BFP shall establish
specialized fire protection services for high-rise building fires, forest fires,
aircraft/airport fires, ship fires, chemical fires, disaster rescue services,
emergency medical services, and the like; and
e) Human Resource Development – The Program shall likewise provide for the
continuing training of BFP personnel, the establishment of training facilities, and
the hiring of internationally accredited training consultants and advisers if experts
of equal qualification cannot be secured locally, to accelerate the BFP’s
personnel development program. All newly appointed uniformed personnel of the
BFP shall undergo a Mandatory Training Program.

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

SEC 5. Multi-Year Contracts or Other Contractual Arrangements. -
The DILG Secretary may, subject to the approval of the President, under provisions of
existing laws and regulations, including those of the Commission on Audit and Section 3
of Executive Order No. 91, series of 2019, and under such terms and conditions
favorable to the government, enter into multi-year contracts or other contractual
agreements with local or foreign suppliers and contractors in the implementation of this
Act.

SEC. 6. Appropriations. - The amount needed for the initial
implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation of
the BFP. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation
of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 7. Period of Implementation. - The Fire Protection Modernization
Program under this Act shall be implemented over a period of three (3) years upon the
effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 8. Congressional Oversight Committee. - There is hereby created a
Congressional Oversight Committee upon the effectivity of this Act to monitor and
oversee the implementation of its provisions.
It shall be composed of four (4) members from the House of Representatives and four (4) members from the Senate, with the Chairpersons of the Committee on Public Order and Safety and the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs of each Chamber, respectively, as joint chairpersons. The three (3) other members representing the House of Representatives shall be designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, while the three (3) other members from the Senate shall be designated by the Senate President. The Minority shall have at least one (1) representative from each Chamber.

The amount necessary shall be appropriated to the Congressional Oversight Committee annually to carry out its functions.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DILG, in coordination with the BFP, the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. Annual Report. - The BFP shall submit to the Office of the President and Congress, through the DILG Secretary, an annual report containing the process and status of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization Program.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. - Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.
SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. - All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,