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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT No.: 421

Submitted by the Committees on Public Order and Safety and Appropriations on

Re   : House Bill No. 7406

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 931, 1166, 2469, 2546, 3102, 3275, 3404, 3498, 4707, and 4887

Sponsors: Representatives Narciso R. Bravo Jr. and Eric G. Yap

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on Public Order and Safety and Appropriations, to which were referred House Bill No. 931 introduced by Rep. Manuel DG. Cabochan III, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 1166 introduced by Reps. Michael L. Romero and Enrico A. Pineda, entitled:

“AN ACT
TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), ASSURING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FIRE SAFETY, TO FOSTER FIRE PROTECTION AND FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 2469 introduced by Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario, entitled:

“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
House Bill No. 2546 introduced by Rep. Luis Raymund “LRay” F. Villafuerte, Jr., entitled:

“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 3102 introduced by Rep. Michael L. Romero, entitled:

“AN ACT
TO CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE FIRE PROTECTION MODERNIZATION PROGRAM, TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FIRE SAFETY, TO FOSTER FIRE PROTECTION AND FIRE PREVENTION SERVICES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 3275 introduced by Reps. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez and Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, entitled:

“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 3404 introduced by Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda, entitled:

“AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF FIRE PROTECTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 3498 introduced by Rep. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, entitled:

“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 4707 introduced by Rep. Joy Myra S. Tambunting, entitled:

“AN ACT
ORDAINING THE MODERNIZATION OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP)”
and House Bill No. 4887 introduced by Rep. Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, entitled:

“AN ACT
STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZING THE BUREAU OF FIRE
PROTECTION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

have considered the same and are honored to recommend to the House the approval of the attached House Bill No. 7406, entitled:

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


Respectfully submitted:

ERIC GO YAP  
Chairperson  
Committee on Appropriations

NARCISO R. BRAVO, JR.  
Chairperson  
Committee on Public Order and Safety

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
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:

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Bureau of Fire 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. 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. 9. 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. 10. 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. 11. 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. 12. 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,
FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 7406
(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 931, 1166, 2469, 2546,
3102, 3275, 3404, 3498, 4707, and 4887)

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

Introduced by: Representatives, Manuel D. Cabochan III, Michael Odylon L. Romero, Enrico A.
Pineda, Joel Mayo Z. Almario, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Yedda Marie K. Romualdez,
Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Joey Sarte Salceda, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, Lorna C.
Silverio, Rosanna "Ria" Vergara, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano,
Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Kristin Singson-Meehan, Manuel Jose "Mannix" M.
Dalipe, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Alyssa Sheena P. Tan, Jumel
Anthony I. Espino, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Eric L. Olivarez, Strike B. Revilla, Domingo C.
Cuaresma, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Eddiebong G. Plaza, Jorge Antonio P. Bustos, Michael Edgar Y.
Aglipay, Wilton "Tonto" Tan Kho, Resurreccion Marrero-Acop M.D., Dahlia A. Loyola, Maria Re R.
Abunda, Junie E. Cua, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Adriano A. Ebcas, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Romeo M.
Jalosjos, Jr., Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Presley C. De Jesus, Prospero A. Pichay, Jr., Carlos
Isagani T. Zarate, Eric Go Yap, Jose "PingPing" I. Tejada, Francisco Jose "Bingo" F. Mataguas, Jose
Enrique "Joet" S. Garcia III, Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga, Diego C. Ty, Maricel G. Natividad-Nagaño,
M.D., Elias C. Bulut, Jr., Jonathan Keith T. Flores, and Eliza "Olga" T. Kho

Committee Referral: COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

Committee Chairperson: REP. NARCISO R. BRAVO, JR.

OBJECTIVE:

- To ensure public safety through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires with
  the active support of the community

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Mandates the BFP to perform the following additional functions:
  - 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;
  - Establish and maintain regional arson laboratories and research and testing facilities with
    complete equipment;
  - 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;
  - 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
- 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.

- Establishes the components of the Fire Protection Modernization Program (FPMP) as follows: a) Fire Protection Service; b) Force restructuring and organizational development; c) Capability, material and technology development; d) Specialized services development and e) Human resource development;

- Directs the BFP to recommend and submit to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), through the DILG, the revised organizational structure and staffing pattern for its officers and personnel within ninety (90) days from the promulgation of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act. 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;

- Authorizes the Secretary of the DILG, upon approval of the President and under the 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, to enter into multi-year contracts or other contractual agreements with local or foreign suppliers/contractors in the implementation of this Act;

- Provides that the amount needed for the initial implementation of the law shall be charged against the current year’s appropriation of the BFP; such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation shall thereafter be included in the annual General Appropriations Act;

- Stipulates that upon the effectivity of this Act, the Fire Protection Modernization Program shall be implemented over a period of three (3) years, directs the DILG to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, in coordination with the BFP, the Department of Finance, and the DBM; and

- Mandates the BFP, through the Secretary of the DILG, to submit to the Office of the President and to Congress, an annual report containing the process and status of the implementation of the Fire Protection Modernization Program

**RELATED LAWS:**

- Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the "Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990"

- Republic Act No. 9514, otherwise known as the "Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008"