



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7878

BY REPRESENTATIVES FARINAS, ALVAREZ (P.), ACHARON, ACOP, ANDAYA, DUAVIT, COJUANGCO, KHO, ABU, SALIMBANGON, SUAREZ, BATOCABE, NOGRALES (K.A.), ROQUE, NIETO, BATAOIL, COSALAN, TAN (A.), VILLANUEVA, FLOIRENDO, SY-ALVARADO, TAMBUNTING, FORTUN, ESPINO, MERCADO, DALIPE, VIOLAGO, CATAMCO, REVILLA, BORDADO, ALVAREZ (F.), RELAMPAGOS, BARBERS, FERRER (J.), PALMA, YAP (M.), GASATAYA, CERILLES, SARMIENTO (E.M.) AND SANGCOPAN, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 791

AN ACT ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL BY ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN EVERY PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY

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
2 “Public Safety Act.”

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to
4 promote public order, ensure public safety and further spur
5 economic development through the enhancement of local
6 government capability in addressing safety and security concerns
7 and maintaining public order including the implementation of

1 efficient and effective local traffic management and disaster
2 preparedness and relief operations. Towards this end, all local
3 government units shall establish and maintain a fully functional
4 and responsive central command and control center and emergency
5 response and management system in order to protect and preserve
6 the right of the people to life, liberty and property.

7 SEC. 3. *Creation of a Department of Public Safety.* – Every
8 province, city and municipality is hereby mandated to create a
9 Department of Public Safety (DPS) which, under the direct control
10 and supervision of the provincial governor, city or municipal mayor,
11 is tasked to implement public order and safety laws and ordinances,
12 help reduce vehicular traffic congestion and address the effects of
13 man-made and natural disasters. The DPS shall operate a
14 fully functional and responsive central command and control center
15 and emergency response and management system that will connect
16 constituents needing immediate assistance with the emergency
17 resources of the government, such as law enforcement, medical
18 services, and fire and rescue services, using the most appropriate
19 and available technologies and communications, with a
20 fully operative call center and dispatch hotline, adequate and
21 well-trained staff, sufficient and up-to-date emergency response
22 equipment, all consistent with national standards and best
23 practices.

24 Contiguous cities and municipalities may, through their local
25 chief executives, enter into arrangements and agreements to
26 establish collective command and control centers and emergency
27 response and management systems pending the ability of certain

1 cities and municipalities to establish their own independent centers
2 and systems.

3 Any province, city or municipality with an existing DPS or
4 similar agency shall retain the same but must conform with the
5 provisions of this Act.

6 SEC. 4. *Powers and Functions.* – The DPS shall exercise the
7 following powers and functions:

8 (a) Prepare, integrate, coordinate and supervise all plans,
9 programs, projects and activities of the local government relative to
10 the promotion and maintenance of peace and order and the
11 protection of life, liberty and property;

12 (b) Secure the general public and maintain public order in
13 conjunction with the police and other national law enforcement
14 agencies;

15 (c) Augment auxiliary traffic services and support other
16 agencies tasked to enforce traffic management;

17 (d) Recommend the issuance of temporary terminal permits
18 to public utility vehicles and manage public utility vehicle
19 terminals;

20 (e) Monitor and supervise private security agencies and
21 security guards and issue local security clearances;

22 (f) Recommend the issuance of traffic clearance certificates
23 to business establishments;

24 (g) Clear sidewalks, public parks and other public areas of
25 obstruction such as unauthorized structures or fixtures and
26 unlicensed vendors;

1 (h) Organize plans for and undertake evacuation, rescue and
2 relief operations in times of disasters, calamities and civil
3 disturbances; and

4 (i) Establish, maintain and operate a central command and
5 control center and emergency response and management system
6 that will monitor and respond to various contingencies in which
7 emergency resources of the government are required by the
8 constituents.

9 Accordingly, existing departments within the local
10 government units whose primary functions are those enumerated
11 above are hereby integrated and included within the DPS. The DPS
12 may assume additional functions other than those enumerated
13 above and may absorb other offices or agencies within the local
14 government unit as long as the functions or offices are in relation to
15 public order, safety and security and the protection of life, liberty or
16 property, unless an existing law expressly prohibits the same.

17 SEC. 5. *Funding.* - The amount necessary for the initial
18 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current
19 appropriations of the local government units. Thereafter, such sum
20 as may be necessary for continued implementation shall be included
21 in the annual budget of the local government unit.

22 SEC. 6. *Compliance Period.* - The local government units
23 shall comply within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.
24 Within thirty (30) days from compliance, the governor, city or
25 municipal mayor shall report the same to the Secretary of the
26 Interior and Local Government.

1 SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section
2 or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid by the
3 Supreme Court, the other sections or provisions hereof not affected
4 by such declaration shall remain in force and effect.

5 SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All existing laws, orders,
6 decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the
7 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8 SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
9 days from its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national
10 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

O