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SENATE
S. No. 1860

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
REQUIRING PERSONNEL OF THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION TO BE
CERTIFIED MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL
TECHNICIANS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 11589, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BUREAU OF FIRE
PROTECTION MODERNIZATION ACT"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fire poses serious dangers to humans – burns, acute injuries, smoke inhalation, and even death. In severe cases, dealing with fire injuries should be transported to ER right away. In his crucial situation, there must be someone competent enough to administer first medical treatment in order to ascertain the survivability of the victims. The responding firefighters are in the best position to provide this much needed first aid.

For this reason, firefighters are needed to be adept to emergency response and preparedness including emergency medical response to victims.

This bill seeks to require personnel of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) to be certified as medical first responders and emergency medical technician. This shall enhance the capability of the BFP to provide assistance, thus, reducing the risk of death of fire victims and fellow responders. If this bill is enacted into law, BFP personnel shall undergo and complete the fire basic recruit course which shall include emergency medical course. Upon completion of this course, an appropriate certification as medical first responder shall be issued accordingly.

For this reason, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARK A. VILLAR

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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NO. 11589, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION
MODERNIZATION ACT"

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

1 Section. 1. *Short Title.* – Title III, Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11589, is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 4. BFP Modernization Program. – The BFP shall, in coordination with the
4 DILG, establish and implement the BFP Modernization Program which shall be geared
5 towards the enhancement of the capability of its personnel and acquisition of state-of-
6 the-art fire prevention, fire suppression, fire investigation, and emergency medical and
7 rescue services facilities and equipment. The BFP Modernization Program shall consist of
8 the following components:

9 a) Fire Protection Service. – x x x

10 b) Force Restructuring and Organizational Development. – x x x

11 c) Capability, Material, and Technology Development. – x x x

12 d) Specialized Services Development. – The BFP Modernization
13 Program shall establish specialized fire protection services such as high-rise

1 building fires, forest fires, aircraft and airport fires, chemical fires, disaster
2 rescue services, and emergency medical services. It shall also include the
3 establishment of a Search and Rescue Force, HAZMAT units, Fire and Arson
4 Investigation Unit, and Security and Protection Unit in every region and city,
5 as well as an Emergency Medical Service (EMS) in every municipality and
6 city: Provided, That each EMS unit to be established shall be comprised of
7 an ambulance with adequate medical equipment, and qualified and trained
8 personnel: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR SHALL
9 DESIGNATE IN EVERY FIRE STATION, AT LEAST ONE (1) UNIFORMED
10 PERSONNEL PER SHIFT, REGARDLESS OF RANK, TO ACT AS AN
11 EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN WHO WILL SUPERVISE FIRE
12 OFFICERS IN RESPONDING TO MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.

13 AS USED IN THIS ACT, AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN
14 REFERS TO A TRAINED AND CERTIFIED PRE-HOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE
15 PROVIDER WHO IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING EXTENSIVE PRE-HOSPITAL
16 CARE, ENDOTRACHEAL INTUBATIONS AND CARDIOPULMONARY
17 RESUSCITATION; ADMINISTERING MEDICATION ORALLY AND
18 INTRAVENOUSLY; AND USING AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR
19 AND OTHER COMPLEX EMERGENCY MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:

20 Provided, further, That every Security and Protection Unit (SPU) shall
21 be composed of not more than fourteen (14) personnel, comprised of two
22 (2) team leaders with the rank of at least Fire Inspector and team members,
23 who shall undergo a neuropsychological examination and periodic trainings:
24 Provided, furthermore, That BFP personnel with the rank of Senior Fire
25 Officer III may be given priority to be appointed as SPU team member:
26 Provided finally, That THE SPU shall be provided with appropriate
27 equipment to protect firefighters during fire suppression, containment of
28 HAZMAT and CBRNE materials, fire investigation, and in the performance of
29 all other acts pertinent to their mandate; and

1 e) Human Resource Development. – The modernization program shall
2 include the development of a comprehensive training program for BFP
3 personnel and BFP volunteers, including mandatory training for new
4 entrants and newly-appointed personnel of the BFP, and BFP volunteers,
5 and establishment of training facilities.

6 In order to accelerate the Personnel Development Program, the BFP
7 shall encourage and promote volunteerism and shall develop guidelines for
8 the enlistment and training of BFP volunteers. Internationally accredited
9 training consultants and advisers may be hired if the BFP determines that
10 there is no Filipino citizen who is competent, able, and willing to provide the
11 same expertise.

12 The BFP shall, in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH)
13 and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA),
14 provide necessary trainings for its EMS, which include infection control and
15 exposure, emergency vehicle response, incident rehabilitation, critical
16 incident stress management, response to HAZMAT, response to mass
17 casualty incidents (MCI), and response to vehicle accidents, among others.

18 UPON APPOINTMENT, A FIRE OFFICER 1 (FO1) OF THE BFP MUST
19 UNDERGO AND COMPLETE THE FIRE BASIC RECRUIT COURSE (FBRC)
20 WHICH SHALL PROVIDE THE FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
21 NECESSARY TO MEET THE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF FIRE PERSONNEL
22 COMPETENCE, INCLUDING ADVANCED FIRST AID AND EMERGENCY FIRST
23 RESPONSE. THE COURSE DESCRIPTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE FBRC
24 SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERNAL RULES AND
25 REGULATIONS ON MANDATORY TRAINING, LOCAL SCHOOLING,
26 SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS WHICH ARE ISSUED BY THE BFP. UPON
27 COMPLETION OF THE FBRC, THE APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATION AS
28 MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER SHALL BE ISSUED ACCORDINGLY.

1 Sec. 2. Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the
2 other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
3 and effect.

4 Sec. 3. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, implementing rules and
5 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
6 repealed or modified accordingly.

7 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
8 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,