Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

Eighteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session  

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1672

Introduced by: REP. Allan Benedict S. Reyes

A RESOLUTION URGING THE PROPER COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE NEED TO PROVIDE OUR FIRE OFFICERS AND VOLUNTEERS WITH THE PROPER EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING FOR THEM TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PERFORM THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State to ensure public safety and promote economic development through the prevention and suppression of all kinds of destructive fires and promote the professionalization of the fire service as a profession. Towards this end, the State shall enforce all laws, rules and regulations to ensure adherence to standard fire prevention and safety measures, and promote accountability for fire safety in the fire protection service and prevention service;¹

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) is principally tasked to administer and enforce the Revised Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008;

WHEREAS, the BFP is authorized to support and assist fire volunteers, practitioners and fire volunteer organizations in the country who shall undergo mandatory fire suppression, inspection, rescue, emergency medical services and related emergency response trainings and competency evaluations to be conducted by the BFP. In the case of the Fire practitioners, they are mandated to undergo mandatory continuous professional education and competency evaluation of their expertise, knowledge and skills in the area of fire science, engineering and technology to be conducted by the BFP;²

WHEREAS, the BFP may enter into external party agreements for the conduct of training, education and evaluation of fire volunteers, practitioners and fire volunteer organizations, which shall be under the full control and supervision of the BFP: Provided, however, That during firefighting operations, fire volunteer organizations shall be under the direct operational control of the fire ground commanders of the BFP;³

WHEREAS, the BFP may also enter into long-term agreement, either through public biddings or negotiations in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act of 2003, for the acquisition of fire prevention, fire protection and fire-fighting investigation, rescue, paramedics, hazardous material handling equipment, supplies, materials and related technical services necessary for the fire services;⁴

¹ Section 2, Republic Act No. 9514 or An Act Establishing a Comprehensive Fire Code of the Philippines, Repealing Presidential Decree No. 1185 and for Other Purposes (hereinafter, “Revised Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008”)
² Section 5(c), Revised Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008.
³ Id.
⁴ Section 5(d), Id.
known as the Government Procurement Reform Act of 2003, for the acquisition of fire prevention, fire protection and fire-fighting investigation, rescue, paramedics, hazardous material handling equipment, supplies, materials and related technical services necessary for the fire services;⁴

WHEREAS, the BFP may likewise enter into Memoranda of Agreement with other departments, bureaus, agencies, offices and corporations of the government, as well as private institutions, in order to define areas of cooperation and coordination and delineate responsibility on fire prevention education, fire safety, fire prevention, fire suppression and other matters of common concern;⁵

WHEREAS, the BFP is also empowered to call on the police, other law enforcement agencies, and local government assistance to render necessary assistance in the enforcement of the Revised Fire Code of the Philippines;⁶

WHEREAS, to support the manpower, infrastructure and equipment needs of the fire service of the BFP, such amount as may be necessary to attain the objectives of the Fire Code shall be appropriated and included in the annual appropriation of the BFP. In addition, certain taxes and fees are also being imposed such as fees to be charged for the issuance of certificates, permits and licenses related to fire safety inspection to partially provide for the funding of the fire service;⁷

WHEREAS, the BFP is empowered to determine the optimal number of equipment, including, but not limited to, fire trucks and fire hydrants, required by every local government unit for the proper delivery of fire protection services in its jurisdiction. Yet, the BFP remains to be one of the most underranked and under resourced agencies of the government;

WHEREAS, in 2020, the BFP was said to be doubly short of firefighters, with the ideal ratio of one (1) firefighter per 2,000 people or population. Thus, with the current national population of around 100 million, the country needs at least 50,000 fire personnel;⁸

WHEREAS, the BFP is also short of fire trucks and other firefighting equipment such as fire hoses, nozzles and breathing apparatus that could boost or enhance the BFP's fire-fighting capability;⁹

WHEREAS, from 2014 to 2018, a total of 83,199 fire incidents took place in the country or an average of nearly 16,640 fire incidents every year. During the said period, 74,437 structures were affected, with the total estimated damage to property reaching P30 billion. Worse, 411 deaths were recorded;¹⁰

⁴ Section 5(d), Id.
⁵ Section 5(e), Revised Fire Code of the Philippines of 2008.
⁶ Section 5(f), Id.
⁷ Section 12(a), Id.
⁸ Section 12(b), Id.
¹⁰ Id.
WHEREAS, the effective performance by our firefighters of their duties and responsibilities will help keep the number of these fire incidents and fatalities down. For the BFP and its volunteers to do so, the BFP should be provided with the ideal number of fire trucks and firefighting equipment and our fire officers and volunteers should continue to undergo mandatory professional education, emergency response trainings and competency evaluation of their expertise, knowledge and skills in the area of fire science, engineering and technology.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives to direct the proper Committee to conduct an investigation in aid of legislation on the need to provide our fire officers and volunteers with the proper equipment and training for them to more effectively perform their duties and responsibilities.

Adopted,

[HON. ALLAN BENEDICT S. REYES
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