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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 699

Submitted by the Committee on Public Order and Safety on DEC 15 2020

Re : House Bill No. 8261

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 2242, 3639, 5340, 6635, 7520, 7639, 7960, and Senate Bill Numbered 1563

Sponsors: Representative Narciso R. Bravo Jr. and Manuel DG. Cabochan III

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Public Order and Safety, to which was referred House Bill No. 2242 introduced by Rep. Pablo John F. Garcia, entitled:

"AN ACT
REPEALING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)"

House Bill No. 3639 introduced by Rep. Raul C. Tupas, entitled:

"AN ACT
REPEALING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY"

House Bill No. 5340 introduced by Rep. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, entitled:

"AN ACT
REPEALING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)"

House Bill No. 6635 introduced by Rep. Manuel DG. Cabochan III, entitled:

"AN ACT
AMENDING THE HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR POLICE APPLICANTS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 30 OF RA 6975 AS AMENDED BY RA 8551"

House Bill No. 7520 introduced by Rep. Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., entitled:

"AN ACT
LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTION (BUCOR), AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

House Bill No. 7639 introduced by Rep. Joy Myra S. Tambunting, entitled:

"AN ACT
LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTION (BUCOR), AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

House Bill No. 7960 introduced by Rep. Alfred Vargas, entitled:

"AN ACT
LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR), AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

and Senate Bill No. 1563 introduced by Senators Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Vicente C. Sotto III, Panfilo "Ping" M. Lacson, Francis N. Tolentino, Ronald "Bato" M. Dela Rosa, Emmanuel "Manny" D. Pacquiao, Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Joel Villanueva, Christopher Lawrence T. Go, Win Gatchalian, and Imee R. Marcos, entitled:

"AN ACT
LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP),

BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTION (BUCOR), AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

has considered the same and is honored to recommend to the House the approval of the attached House Bill No. 8261, entitled:

"AN ACT
LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT AND REMOVING THE HEIGHT WAIVER FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AS AMENDED, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575"

in substitution of House Bills Numbered 2242, 3639, 5340, 6635, 7520, 7639, 7960, and Senate Bill Numbered 1563, with Reps. Pablo John F. Garcia, Rico B. Geron, Raul C. Tupas, Jose "Ping-Ping" I. Tejada, Michael B. Gorriceta, Julienne "Jam" L. Baronda, Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Sandra Y. Eriguel, MD, Eric L. Olivarez, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Paul Ruiz Daza, Alfred Vargas, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Resurreccion M. Acop, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Diego "Nonoy" C. Ty, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Samier A. Tan, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Adrian A. Ebcas, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Strike B. Revilla, Dahlia A. Loyola, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Edgar M. Chatto, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Frederick W. Siao and Jorge "PATROL" Bustos as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

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, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8261

Introduced by Representatives Pablo John F. Garcia, Rico B. Geron, Raul C. Tupas, Jose "Ping-Ping" I. Tejada, Michael B. Gorriceta, Julienne "Jam" L. Baronda, Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Sandra Y. Eriguel, MD, Eric L. Olivarez, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Paul Ruiz Daza, Alfred Vargas, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Resurreccion M. Acop, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Diego "Nonoy" C. Ty, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Samier A. Tan, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Adrian A. Ebcas, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Strike B. Revilla, Dahlia A. Loyola, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Edgar M. Chatto, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Frederick W. Siao and Jorge "PATROL" Bustos

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AN ACT
LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT AND REMOVING THE HEIGHT WAIVER FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AS AMENDED, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575

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 "PNP, BFP, BJMP and BuCor Height Equality Act".

SEC. 2. Section 30 of Republic Act No. 6975, otherwise known as the "Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990", as amended by Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998", is further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 30. *General Qualifications for Appointment*. – No person shall be appointed as officer or member of the PNP unless he or she possesses the following minimum qualifications:

"a) XXX...
"b) XXX...
"c) XXX...
"d) XXX...
"e) XXX...

"f) XXX...

"g) XXX...

h) Must be at least one meter and [sixty-two] FIFTY-SEVEN centimeters [(1.62. m.)] (1.57 M.) in height for male, and one meter and [fifty-seven] FIFTY-TWO centimeters [(1.57 m.)] (1.52 M.) for female: *PROVIDED*, THAT APPLICANTS BELONGING TO THE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES OR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MUST BE AT LEAST ONE METER AND FIFTY-TWO CENTIMETERS (1.52 M) FOR MALE, AND ONE METER AND FORTY-SEVEN CENTIMETERS (1.47 M.) FOR FEMALE: *PROVIDED, FURTHER,* THAT THE HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR CADETS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY (PNPA) SHALL BE RETAINED AT ONE METER AND SIXTY-TWO CENTIMETERS (1.62 M.) FOR MALE, AND ONE METER AND FIFTY-SEVEN CENTIMETERS (1.57 M.) FOR FEMALE.

"i) XXX...

"j) XXX...

"XXX..."

SEC. 3. Section 15 of Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998", is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 15. *Waivers for Initial Appointments to the PNP.* – The age, [height,] weight, and educational requirements for initial appointment to the PNP may be waived only when the number of qualified applicants fall below the minimum annual quota: *Provided,* That an applicant shall not be below twenty (20) nor over thirty-five (35) years of age: *Provided, further,* That any applicant not meeting the weight requirement shall be given reasonable time but not exceeding six (6) months within which to comply with the said requirement: *Provided, furthermore,* That only applicants who have finished second year college or have earned at least seventy-two (72) collegiate units leading to a bachelor's degree shall be eligible for appointment: *Provided, furthermore,* That anybody who will enter the service without a baccalaureate degree shall be given a maximum of four (4) years to obtain the required educational qualification[: *Provided, finally,* That a waiver for height requirement shall be automatically granted to applicants belonging to the cultural communities].

SEC. 4. Section 16 of Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998", is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 16. *Selection Criteria Under the Waiver Program.* – The selection of applicants under the Waiver Program shall be subject to the following minimum criteria:

a) XXX

b) The requirements shall be waived in the following order: (a) age, [(b) height, (c)] (B) weight, and [(d)] (C) education.

The Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations to address other situations arising from the waiver of the entry requirements.

SEC. 5. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9263, otherwise known as the "Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004", as amended by Republic Act No. 9592, is further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. *Professionalization and Upgrading of Qualification Standards in the Appointment of Uniformed Personnel to the BFP and the BJMP.* – No person shall be appointed as uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP unless he/she possesses the following minimum qualifications:

"a) XXX...
"b) XXX...
"c) XXX...
"d) XXX...
"e) XXX...
"f) XXX...
"g) XXX...
"h) Must be at least one meter and [sixty-two] FIFTY-SEVEN centimeters [(1.62 m.)] (1.57 M.) in height for male, and one meter and [fifty-seven] FIFTY-TWO centimeters [(1.57 m.)] (1.52 M.) for female: *Provided*, That [a waiver for height and age requirements shall be automatically granted to] applicants belonging to the cultural communities OR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MUST BE AT LEAST ONE METER AND FIFTY-TWO CENTIMETERS (1.52 M) FOR MALE, AND ONE METER AND FORTY-SEVEN CENTIMETERS (1.47 M.) FOR FEMALE; and
"i) XXX...

"*Provided,* That a new applicant must not be less than twenty-one (21) nor more than thirty (30) years of age: *PROVIDED, FURTHER,* THAT A WAIVER OF AGE REQUIREMENT SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY GRANTED TO APPLICANTS BELONGING TO THE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES OR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES: except for this particular provision, the above-enumerated qualifications shall be continuing in character and an absence of any one of them at any given time shall be a ground for separation or retirement from the service: *Provided, further,* That the uniformed personnel who are already in the service prior to the effectivity of Republic Act No. 9263 shall be given another five (5) years to obtain the minimum educational qualification and appropriate civil service eligibility to be reckoned from the date of effectivity of this Act: *Provided, furthermore,* That concerned BFP and BJMP members who have rendered more than fifteen years of service at the time of the effectivity of this Act shall no longer be required to comply with the aforementioned educational and eligibility requirements. Likewise, those personnel who have acquired National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) eligibility prior to the effectivity of Republic Act No. 9263 shall no longer be required to obtain the appropriate civil service eligibility: *Provided, finally,* That within the five-year extension period stipulated herein, the issue of whether or not the BFP shall be devolved to local government units shall be revisited by Congress, and as circumstances demand, be immediately implemented.

"XXX..."

SEC. 6. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 10575, otherwise known as "The Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013" is amended to read as follows:

"Section 11. *Professionalization and Upgrading of Qualification Standards in the Appointment of the BuCor Personnel.* – (a) No person shall be appointed as personnel of the BuCor unless one possesses the following minimum qualifications:

"(1) XXX...
"(2) XXX...
"(3) XXX...
"(4) XXX...
"(5) XXX...
"(6) XXX...
"(7) XXX...
"(8) Must be at least one meter and [sixty-two] FIFTY-SEVEN centimeters [(1.62 m.)] (1.57 M.) in height for male and one meter and [fifty-seven] FIFTY-TWO centimeters [(1.57 m.)] (1.52 M.) for female: *Provided*, That [a waiver for height and age requirement/s shall be automatically granted to] applicants belonging to the cultural communities OR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES MUST BE AT LEAST ONE METER AND FIFTY-TWO CENTIMETERS (1.52 M) FOR MALE, AND ONE METER AND FORTY-SEVEN CENTIMETERS (1.47 M.) FOR FEMALE: *Provided, further*, That a new applicant must not be less than twenty-one (21) or more than forty (40) years of age: *PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE,* THAT A WAIVER OF AGE REQUIREMENT MAY BE GRANTED TO APPLICANTS BELONGING TO THE CULTURAL COMMUNITIES OR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. Except for this particular provision, the above-enumerated qualifications shall be continuing in character and an absence of any one of them at any given time shall be ground for separation or retirement from the service: *Provided, [furthermore] FINALLY,* That those who are already in the service upon the effectivity of this Act shall be given five (5) years from the date of such effectivity to obtain the minimum educational qualification and eligibility with subsidiary assistance as provided for in this Act.

"(b) XXX...
"(c) XXX...
"(d) XXX..."

SEC. 7. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations***. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and the DOJ shall, in coordination with the CSC, Napolcom, the PNP, the BFP, the BJMP, and BuCor, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause*. – If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the section or provisions which are not affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 9. ***Repealing Clause***. – All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *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. 8261

AN ACT
LOWERING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT AND REMOVING THE HEIGHT WAIVER FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, AS AMENDED, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10575

Introduced by Representatives **Pablo John F. Garcia, Rico B. Geron, Raul C. Tupas, Jose "Ping-Ping" I. Tejada, Michael B. Gorriceta, Julienne "Jam" L. Baronda, Anthony Peter "Onyx" D. Crisologo, "Kuya" Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado, John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto, Sandra Y. Eriguel, MD, Eric L. Olivarez, Manuel DG. Cabochan III, Luis Raymund "LRay" F. Villafuerte, Jr., Joy Myra S. Tambunting, Paul Ruiz Daza, Alfred Vargas, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Resurreccion M. Acop, Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, Diego "Nonoy" C. Ty, Narciso R. Bravo, Jr., Samier A. Tan, Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, Adrian A. Ebcas, Eddiebong G. Plaza, Ruth Mariano-Hernandez, Strike B. Revilla, Dahlia A. Loyola, Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, Edgar M. Chatto, Joseph Stephen "Caraps" S. Paduano, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Frederick W. Siao and Jorge "PATROL" Bustos**

Committee Referral: ***COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY***
Committee Chairperson: ***REP. NARCISO R. BRAVO, JR.***

OBJECTIVE

- To grant equal opportunity for applicants to the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and Bureau of Corrections (BuCor)

KEY PROVISIONS

- Lowers the height requirement qualification for persons to be appointed as officers, or applicants as members of the PNP, as uniformed personnel of the BFP and the BJMP, and as personnel of the BuCor as follows:
    - one meter and sixty-two centimeters (1.62. m.) to one meter and fifty-seven centimeters (1.57 m.) for male; and
    - from one meter and fifty-seven centimeters (1.57m.) to one meter fifty-two centimeters (1.52m.) for female;
- Mandates that the current height requirement of cadets of the Philippine National Police Academy shall be retained at one meter and sixty-two centimeters (1.62 m.) for male and one meter and fifty-seven centimeters (1.57m.) for female;

- Establishes the minimum height requirement for appointment as an officer or employee of the PNP, BFP, BJMP, or BuCor of a person who belongs to the cultural communities or indigenous peoples, which shall be one meter and fifty-two centimeters (1.52m.) for male, and one meter and forty-seven centimeters (1.47m.) for female;

- Removes the waiver for height requirement for appointment as an officer or employee of the PNP, BFP, BJMP or BuCor of a person who belongs to cultural communities or indigenous peoples;

- Mandates the Department of the Interior and Local Government and Department of Justice, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, National Police Commission, the PNP, BFP, BJMP and BuCor, to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 6975 otherwise known as the "*Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990*" as amended by Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the *"Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998"*

- Republic Act No. 9263, otherwise known as the *"Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Professionalization Act of 2004"* as amended

- Republic Act No. 10575, otherwise known as "*The Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013"*