

[Act No. 1733, October 01, 1907]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION IN MUNICIPALITIES HAVING NO PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Commission, that:

SECTION 1. In all municipalities having no paid fire department it shall be the duty of all officers and members of the police force to act as firemen, and the police force of each such municipality shall constitute a fire department and be regularly instructed, exercised, and trained in the duties and work of firemen by its officers under the direction and supervision of the municipal president, with such assistance as he may require from the municipal councilors. The entire police force, as such fire department, shall be drilled in its practical duties not less than once in each week or as much often as may be necessary to reach and maintain proficiency in its duties and the use of the apparatus furnished for its use. Such departments shall be regularly inspected as to drill, equipment, and efficiency by the provincial governor upon his semiannual visits to the municipalities.

SEC. 2. Each, municipality shall provide equipment and apparatus for protection against fire, which shall at no time consist of less than twenty-four lire; buckets, twelve ladders of suitable lengths, six ropes with hooks attached, of suitable size and length, twenty-four bolos, twelve axes, and one two-man cross-cut saw, and such additional or other apparatus as may be considered necessary by the municipal council and approved by the provincial board. All apparatus shall be kept in such place or places as may be designated by the municipal council, where it shall be conveniently available and shall be kept and maintained in order and constant readiness for instant use. Such apparatus shall not be used except in case of fire or fire drills. Whenever the size or importance of any barrio separate barrios, shall demand fire apparatus similar in kind and amount to that above prescribed, it may be furnished by the municipality and kept in such barrio, as above prescribed. The provincial board may require any municipality to purchase and provide for the maintenance of such additional apparatus as it may deem necessary.

SEC. 3. The municipal council may provide for the enrollment and training of auxiliary volunteer firemen among the able-bodied male residents of the municipality in such numbers as may be deemed expedient, which however, shall not exceed the number of regular police appointed and paid by the municipality. Such volunteers shall, upon joining, obligate themselves to attend fire drills of not less than one hour at least once a week and to report to their officers immediately in case of fire and to obey the lawful orders of such officers at all drills and fires. They shall be divided into subdivision and attached, by the chief of police, or drill and fire purposes, to the divisions or subdivisions of the police force nearest their respective residences. They shall, while members of such department, be supplied with appropriate metal badges of membership, which shall remain the property of the municipality. Should fire helmets or uniforms be provided for the fire forms and unlit by the municipality, they shall be supplied therewith for use while in such service, and they may, should they desire, purchase the same for their individual use at cost. They may organize for purposes and their organization shall be granted the use of public buildings for social purposes at such times and to such extent as may in the judgment of the municipal council, be consistent with the public