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SENATE  
S. No. 606

RECEIVED BY: Alde

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost..." (Article XI II, Section ?)

Reality, however, points to the other direction as resources stands in the way between most Filipinos and their needed health services. Studies have shown that one-third of the population resort to either mortgage or borrowing to finance their hospital and medical expenses. Likewise, the resources earmarked for health are very low as it accounts for only about 1.8% percent of the Gross National Product (GNP). Furthermore, the budget of the DOH is only about six to seven percent (6%-7%) of the total government budget.

The facts stated above is mirrored in the following details:

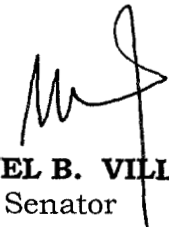
- a) about two (2) million Filipino pre-school children, aged one (1) to four (4), are undernourished and face the danger of death due to loss of weight and failure to grow;
- b) some 40% of the population have tuberculosis;
- c) 70% of the population are malnourished, with 22% having second to third degree malnutrition - one of the world's highest rates;
- d) more than half of the population die without receiving any type medical care;
- e) according to the World Health Organization, more than 70% of the population have access to essential drugs; and
- f) there are only about 8,000 barangay health stations to serve the country's 40, 877 barangays.

It is therefore imperative that the Government addresses immediately the need for basic and essential medicine or drugs at the barangay level.

Drugstores are normally non-existent in barangays outside of the town proper. Most of our people in the countryside are thus deprived of access even to basic drugs and medicines when they are afflicted and in need.

This bill should provide the answer to this basic need of our people in the country side. Within a period of three (3) years, the Department of Health is enjoined to establish barangay drugstores or "botica sa barangay" in every barangay making available drugs for common illnesses such as fever, pain, cough/colds and others, including vitamin and mineral preparations.

Approval of this bill is fervently called for.

  
**MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.**  
Senator

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SENATE

S. No. 606

RECEIVED BY: Quila

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY  
DRUG STORES OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "BOTICA SA BARANGAY" AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Botica sa Barangay Act."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall provide adequate social services and endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to every barangay at affordable cost.

SEC. 3. Botica sa Barangay. --The Department of Health shall, within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act, undertake a three (3) year program for the establishment of barangay drugstores in every barangay or the "botica ng barangay" (BSB) giving priority to barangay with more population and poverty incidence, likewise taking into consideration the extent of medical and health care and/or services, geographical conditions, financial and other socioeconomic factors and such other considerations as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of the national plans and policies on social services, health and medical care.

SEC. 4. Establishment Priority. - The Department of Health shall in the establishment of the BSB, undertake prior consultations with the Municipal Development Council concerned; *Provided*, that in the establishment of the BSB, highest priority shall be given to those economically depressed barangays. Existing BSB shall be maintained under the relevant provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. Medicine and Drugs Available. -- The BSB shall make available, only those medicine and prescription drugs included in the "core list" of national drug formulary, the listed generic and trade names thereof to likewise he made available to the public.

SEC. 6. Botica sa Barangay Aide. - Sale of medicines at the BSB shall be facilitated by an aide, known as the Botica sa Barangay Aide; who shall be chosen by and trained under the direction of the Department of Health.

SEC 7. Implementing Rules and Guidelines. -- The Department of Health shall issue the necessary rules and guidelines as may be needed to fully implement the provisions of this Act. In addition, the Department shall also embark on a sustained promotional campaign to increase the community's awareness of the BSB through its personnel, non-governmental organization, barangay official and the print and broadcast media.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees and other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the

provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect upon its approval

Approved,