



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

'17 MAR 16 P 3:03

RECEIVED BY: J

SENATE
SENATE BILL NO. 1406

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE AT
LEAST ONE (1) HEALTH WORKER IN EVERY BARANGAY,
INCREASING THEIR SALARIES AND BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Primary Health Care Approach is recognized as the major strategy towards health empowerment, emphasizing the need to provide accessible and acceptable health services through participatory strategies such as health education training of barangay health workers, community building and organizing.¹

The Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) serve as the frontliners in the barangay in providing basic health services. They play a vital role in accomplishing the major strategy towards health empowerment.

Despite the recorded number of health workers of the Department of Health, there are still barangays in the country which do not have BHWs nor barangay health center to attend to the health needs of the people. This reality points to the fact that a career in providing basic health services is not considered as rewarding.

Under Republic Act 7883 or the Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995, BHWs are considered as volunteers who render primary health care services in the community after having been accredited to function as such by the local health board.

Despite their essential role and the demands of their function, they are only entitled to meager incentives and benefits.

¹ Section 2, RA 7883

This measure seeks to introduce major reforms on the provision of basic health services in the barangay: First, the DOH shall be mandated to ensure that there is at least one (1) Barangay Health Worker in every barangay and second, the position of Barangay Health Worker shall be made a permanent position with Salary Grade 10 pursuant to Section 7 of Republic Act No. 6758 or the Salary Standardization Law of 1989.

These reforms are seen to improve not just the capabilities of the barangay as frontliners in the Primary Health Care Approach but more importantly the availability of the health services to the poor members of the society.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

1 **SEC. 4. Appropriation.** - The sum of Twenty Million pesos (Php20,000,000.00)
2 is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of this Act. Such amount
3 as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be
4 included and integrated in the General Appropriations Act as part of the
5 budget of the Department of Health.

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7 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
8 regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
9 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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11 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
12 the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
13 newspapers of general circulation.

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15 *Approved,*
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