

### EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

SENATE

)

)

)

S.B. No. 1956

#### **INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO**

#### AN ACT

## PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF THE BARANGAY OFFICIALS BY PROVIDING REGULARIZATION, SALARY STANDARDIZATION, AND SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE IN TIMES OF STATE OF EMERGENCY OR CALAMITIES AND DURING SIMILAR SITUATIONS AS MAY BE DECLARED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 384 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, directs the barangay government unit to serve as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community, and as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled.

The country has been repeatedly witness to the selfless service of barangay officials and personnel in the performance of the above said responsibilities.

This service was again exemplified and dramatically shown in the leading role that our barangay leaders, staff and volunteers exhibited as the National Government's basic partner in the implementation of the policies, rules and regulations to control the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in primarily helping to make these acceptable to our countrymen, both at the community level.

The barangay organization also effectively served to support the PNP and AFP in controlling movements between barangay boundaries, one of the solutions that directly helped in minimizing the spread of the Covid-19 infection. Moreover, and despite the danger to their own health, barangay personnel assisted in the monitoring and helped in identifying the seriously

Covid-19 afflicted in their barangays, and to push the objective to completion, in many cases they promptly brought them to hospitals and identified quarantine facilities.

Significantly, Section 389 of Republic Act No. 7160, imposed duties upon the Punong Barangays similar in concept, but for the barangay level and purposes, to those of their mayors or governors. The Punong Barangay is the local chief executive exercising the basic duty of executing laws and ordinances applicable in the barangay. The Sangguniang Barangay, which is composed of the Punong Barangay, the regular Sangguniang Barangay members, and the Sangguniang Kabataan chairman, exercises legislative powers in the consideration and passage of barangay ordinances. The barangay officers also constitute the Lupong Tagapagpamayapa, which performs judicial functions and settles disputes in the barangay level.

Despite the extensive range of duties and responsibilities that Punong Barangays and other barangay officials perform, they only receive monthly honoraria instead of fixed monthly salaries, with some added minimal benefits, as specified or provided for in Sections 393 and 434 of R. A. No. 7160. They are not entitled to the same employment benefits and privileges that other local government officials enjoy.

In addition, there is no commensurate remuneration for the dangers they assume during times such as the extended Covid-19 challenge that the country is experiencing, and likewise no clear and concomitant health benefits they can expect when they themselves get afflicted by the sicknesses they help to control.

As the primary facilitators of government projects and programs on the ground and the frontline providers of the government services, it is just worthy that the national government grant them just and humane commensurate compensation and benefits to bolster the morale and promote good governance and justice.

Thus, this bill seeks to provide regularization, salary standardization, and additional benefits that will supplement those already provided in existing laws, rules and regulations, in favor of all appointed and elected barangay officials. This bill also proposes that the Punong Barangay, members of the Sangguniang Barangay, the Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, the Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer in all barangays be declared as regular government employees of the Government.

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

PACOUIAO



### EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Second Regular Session

## SENATE

)

)

S.B. No. **1956** 

## **INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO**

## AN ACT

# PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF THE BARANGAY OFFICIALS BY PROVIDING REGULARIZATION, SALARY STANDARDIZATION, AND SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE IN TIMES OF STATE OF EMERGENCY OR CALAMITIES AND DURING SIMILAR SITUATIONS AS MAY BE DECLARED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Barangay Officials Salary
 Standardization Act of 2020."

3

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the welfare of the barangay officials, raise their economic and social status, and provide renumeration and benefit reforms for them to ensure the barangay's enjoyment of local autonomy for the effective performance of its role as the primary planning and implementing unit of government programs, projects and activities, and as a forum in which the collective views of the people in the community may be crystallized and considered.

10

SEC. 3. Salary Standardization of Barangay Officials. - The Punong Barangay, members of the Sangguniang Barangay, the Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, the Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer in all barangays are hereby declared regular government employees, and as such entitled to fixed salaries, allowances, insurance, medical and dental coverage, retirement benefits, and such other incentives and fringe benefits which, under Civil Service laws, rules and regulations, a regular government employee is entitled.

17

18 SEC. 4. Position Classification and Compensation Scheme for Barangay Officials, Personnel 19 and Volunteer Workers. – Barangay officials, personnel, and volunteer workers shall be 1 entitled to salaries, benefits or allowances as compensation for services they shall have 2 rendered.

3

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall develop a standardized Position Classification and Compensation Scheme for Barangay Officials, Personnel, and Volunteer Workers, taking into consideration their educational qualification, nature of work intended to be performed, and the financial capability of their respective barangays, and subject to the minimum qualification standards and guidelines to be prescribed by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

10

13

16

17

18

19

20

21

22 23

11 Such position classification and compensation scheme shall conform with the following 12 guidelines:

- (a) The Position Classification and Compensation Scheme for Barangay Officials and
   Personnel shall be comprised of three salary grades, namely:
  - a. Barangay Salary Grade I for barangay appointive officials as already provided by law, and other barangay personnel the positions of which are provided for by ordinance of the corresponding barangay;
    - b. Barangay Salary Grade II for barangay elective officials in the Sangguniang Kabataan and Sangguniang Barangay with the exception of the Punong Barangay, and
      - c. Barangay Salary Grade III for Punong Barangay.
  - (b) The minimum monthly salary for the salary grades for barangay officials and personnel shall be as follows:
- 25 26

24

- a. Barangay Salary Grade I Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000)
- 27 28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38 39

40

41

- b. Barangay Salary Grade II Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000)
- c. Barangay Salary Grade III Thirty Five Thousand Pesos (P35,000)

Provided, that said monthly salaries shall be subject to applicable statutory deductions to enable membership benefits from the government social agencies; Provided, further that no barangay official or personnel shall suffer reduction, diminution or withdrawal of salaries and benefits already enjoyed by the barangay official or personnel concerned: Provided, finally that the budget ceiling for annual personnel services appropriations of fifty-five percent (55%) of the total annual income actually realized from local sources during the next preceding fiscal year, as provided in Section 331 (b) of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," shall apply.

- (c) As regularized government employees, said barangay officials and personnel shall likewise be entitled to 13<sup>th</sup> month pay, a Christmas bonus of P3,000.00, and other bonuses as may be provided by law.
- 42 43

2

ì

1 SEC. 5. Special Risk Allowance (SRA). - As the country proceeds to the establishment of the new normal during the continuance of the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic in the country and 2 of the management thereof by the Inter-Agency Task Force, and during similar situations in 3 the future as may be declared by the National Government, and in recognition of the fact that 4 barangay officials and personnel shall have key responsibilities in the ground strategy to 5 implement and maintain Covid-19 and future emergency control mechanisms, the barangay 6 officials and personnel covered in Section 4 of this Act shall be granted a Special Risk 7 Allowance the adequacy of amount and continuance of period of entitlement of which shall be 8 determined by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The DILG shall 9 specially provide for similar benefits to barangay volunteers as the same shall be specified to 10 11 be appropriate.

12

• • •

During such periods covered by the SRA, the Department of Health, through its appropriate offices, agencies and local health units, shall provide supplemental and adequate health coverage and benefits corresponding to the health risks that barangay officials and personnel shall face in the situation of such periods. The DILG shall specially provide for similar benefits to barangay volunteers as the same shall be specified to be appropriate.

18

SEC. 6. Rice Allowances. - In addition to the benefits and entitlements for barangay officials and personnel already provided for in R. A. No. 7160, as otherwise adjusted in this Act, the DILG shall additionally provide quarterly rice allocations for barangay officials and personnel covered in Section 4 of this Act.

23

SEC. 7. Review of Benefits and Entitlements. - The DILG shall conduct a regular review, which
shall not extend beyond ten (10) years at any one time, of the sufficiency and adequacy of the
benefits and entitlements of barangay officials and personnel as provided in existing laws,
including this Act; Provided, that existing benefits and entitlements shall not be diminished.

28

SEC. 8. Special Local Allowances. - Supplemental remunerations, benefits or other
 entitlements that the municipal, city, or provincial governments of respective barangays shall
 not be offset to the remunerations, benefits or other entitlements specified or provided for in
 this Act.

33

SEC. 9. Barangay Volunteers. – In addition to benefits and entitlements already provided for in the foregoing Sections of this Act, barangay volunteer and other barangay workers that are not covered in Section 4 of this Act shall be entitled to temporary honoraria and other benefits, incentives or allowances as may be determined and appropriated for by their respective barangays, municipalities, cities or provinces.

39

SEC. 10. Barangay Official Eligibility. – Pursuant to Republic Act No. 7160 and Civil Service
 Commission Memorandum Circular No. 13, s. 2012, Barangay Officials shall be qualified for
 Barangay Official Eligibility based strictly on completion of term of office, subject to
 qualifications and provisions of the rules of the Civil Service Commission.

SEC. 11. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this
 Act shall be funded by the National Government under the Annual General
 Appropriations Act (GAA).

5 SEC. 12. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or 6 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other 7 provisions hereof.

9 SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders and issuances, or portions
10 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed,
11 amended, or modified accordingly.

12

4

8

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

15

16

17 Approved,