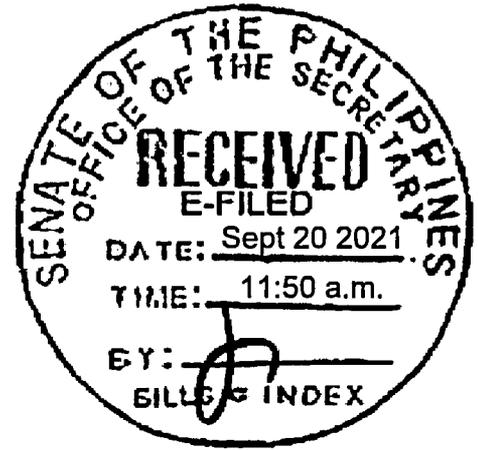


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. 2406



Introduced by SENATOR RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS FOR HEALTH WORKERS
DURING THE PERIOD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On September 10, 2021, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte issued Proclamation No. 1218 extending the period of a state of calamity throughout the Philippines due to Corona Virus Disease 2019. On the other hand, Republic Act No. 11494, otherwise known as the "Bayanihan to Recover As One Act" has been extended only until June 30, 2021 by virtue of Republic Act No. 11519.

In view of the Presidential proclamation extending the state of calamity and the continuing rise of COVID-19 positive cases in the country, our health workers remain vulnerable and expose to the threat of the COVID-19 virus. As of September 18, 2021, 24,895 health workers have been affected by COVID-19, unfortunately, 105 of them have died.

Through Republic Act No. 11494, the government has provided allowances and benefits for our dedicated health workers since last year up to June 30, 2021. In as much as the we want to continuously grant them such benefits, we are constrained with the life span of the law.

For this reason, this proposed legislation seeks to provide allowances and benefits to our exhausted but selfless health workers while the dangers of the COVID-19 persist. Our health workers who despite facing an invisible adversary and a seemingly overwhelming challenge to fight the virus should always have glimpses of hope. They are all the unsung heroes of this pandemic working every day, risking their lives, to care for the sick and dying.

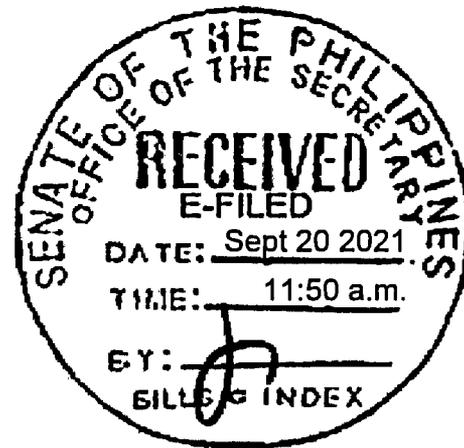
Though no amount of money can put a price on service and commitment, let us make our heroes feel acknowledged or recognized. Let us take care of those who take care of us. This is a small gesture of our appreciation for our health workers who continue to report for work despite knowing the gravity of danger to their lives and the lives of their loved ones. We give thanks not only through words but also through legislation.

In view of the foregoing, I earnestly seek the swift passage of this bill.



RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "Health Workers Allowances and
2 Benefits Act".

3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to instill health
5 consciousness among our people to effectively carry out health programs and activities
6 of the government. The State recognizes the paramount importance of public and private
7 health workers for the continuous delivery of health services, disease prevention and
8 promotion of health in general. Towards this end, the State shall ensure the welfare and
9 adequate support for our health workers especially during the existence of a national
10 public health emergency.

11

12 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** – This Act shall apply to health workers rendering their services
13 during the state of public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic as declared
14 by the President of the Philippines. For purposes of this Act, "health workers" refer to

1 persons who are engaged in health and health-related work in a health facility,
2 vaccination sites, and other related establishment. It shall include medical, allied health
3 professional, administrative and support personnel including maintenance, janitorial and
4 security personnel of such health facility or related establishment, regardless of their
5 employment status.

6
7 **SEC. 4. Allowances and Benefits.** – The following allowances and benefits shall be
8 provided to health workers as defined under this Act:

9 (a) COVID-19 special risk allowance and active hazard duty pay for every month
10 that they served during the existence of COVID-19 pandemic: *Provided*, That
11 the COVID-19 special risk allowance shall be in addition to the hazard pay and
12 related benefits granted under Republic Act No. 7395 or the “Magna Carta of
13 Public Health Workers”, as amended, and other related laws;

14 (b) Provision of life insurance, accommodation, transportation, and meals,
15 regardless of the community quarantine status; and

16 (c) Provision of compensation to those who have contracted COVID-19 in the line
17 of duty:

18 (1) One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) shall be provided to the heirs in case of
19 death of health worker;

20 (2) One hundred thousand pesos (100,000.00) shall be provided to the health
21 worker for severe or critical COVID-19 case;

22 (3) Fifteen thousand pesos (P15,000.00) shall be provided to the health worker
23 for mild or moderate COVID-19 case;

24 *Provided*, That the compensation provided herein shall be given to the
25 beneficiaries not later that three (3) months after the date of confinement or death.

26 (d) Assumption of all medical expenses of health workers in case of exposure to
27 covid-19 or any work-related injury or disease during the duration of the
28 COVID-19 pandemic.

29
30 **SEC. 5. Retroactivity.** – The allowances and benefits under this Act shall have

1 retroactive application from July 1, 2021 and shall remain in full force and effect during
2 the state of national public health emergency as declared by the President.

3
4 **SEC. 6. *Tax Exemption.*** – The allowances and benefits received by health workers
5 under this Act shall be exempt from the applicable taxes under the National Internal
6 Revenue Code of 1997, as amended.

7
8 **SEC. 7. *Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
9 shall be charged against the current year available appropriations of the Department of
10 Health (DOH) and Miscellaneous Personnel Benefit Fund, and any sources available as
11 may be identified by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Thereafter, the
12 amount necessary for its continuous implementation shall be included in the Annual
13 General Appropriations Act.

14
15 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** – Within fifteen (15) days
16 from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH and the DBM, in consultation with other
17 government agencies and concerned stakeholders, shall issue and promulgate the
18 IRR necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act: *Provided,* That non-
19 promulgation of the IRR provided under this section shall not prevent the
20 implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

21
22 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
23 declared unconstitutional, the other provisions which are not affected thereby shall
24 remain valid and subsisting.

25
26 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
27 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation
28 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
29 modified, or amended accordingly.

1 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect immediately after its complete
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,