

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



'22 JUL -7 P2:12

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

Senate Bill No. 84

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT
MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN
EVERY BARANGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FURTHER
EXPANDING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the foundational unit of Philippine governance; the first port of call for every Filipino citizen. It must, as such, provide optimal basic services that will address the everyday concerns of the people—from concerns about peace and order, to concerns about sanitation and waste management, to concerns about medical and dental care.

Affordable and accessible health care is an especially glaring concern, particularly in far-flung areas that are yet to have easy access to hospitals. Even in urban areas, steep prices often bar underprivileged sectors from seeking necessary medical attention. There is a need, then, to better our barangay-level health care system, in order for our people to receive immediate medical attention through an accessible and affordable avenue.

Health services are a mandated function of the barangay, as per Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, which states that the barangay shall provide "health and social welfare services which include maintenance of barangay health center and day-care center." But while RA 7160 mandates that the barangay provide health services, it does not mandate the appointment of full-time health workers to ably deliver said services.

This bill seeks to address that oversight by ensuring that every barangay will have a proportionate number of accredited full-time health workers, thereby guaranteeing that the barangay fulfills its obligation to provide health services. These health workers shall be appointed by the municipal or city mayor, given that they are accredited by the local health board. These health workers will have security of tenure.

With the designation of barangay health workers, citizens in all corners of the nation will be able to enjoy their right to accessible, affordable, and quality health care.

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



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Barangay Health*
2 *Workers Act of 2022.*"

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Pursuant to Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987
4 Philippine Constitution, the State hereby declares the policy of according utmost
5 importance to the health needs of the nation and shall henceforth endeavor to make
6 essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable
7 cost. Toward this end, the State shall ensure that accessible and quality health services
8 are extended to each individual through the barangay health workers as the primary
9 channel for implementing the State's health policies down to the barangay health needs,
10 the State shall guarantee the appointment of a health worker in every barangay as
11 frontline health workers.

12 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** – The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all barangay
13 health workers accredited to act as such by the local health board in accordance with
14 guidelines issued by the Department of Health (DOH). For the purposes of this Act, the
15 term barangay health worker shall refer to a person who has undergone training program
16 under any accredited government or non-government organization primarily to render
17 health care services.

18

1 **SEC. 4.** Section 387 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
2 Government Code of 1991 as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

3 "Section 387. Chief Officials and Officers. – (a) There shall be in each barangay a
4 *Punong Barangay*, seven (7) *Sangguniang Barangay* members, the *Sangguniang*
5 *Kabataan* chairman, a barangay secretary, (and) a barangay treasurer, **AND AT LEAST**
6 **FIVE (5) BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS: PROVIDED, THAT THE TOTAL**
7 **NUMBER OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS PER BARANGAY SHALL IN NO**
8 **CASE BE MORE THAN 1% OF THE BARANGAY'S TOTAL POPULATION."**

9 **SEC. 5.** A New provision shall be inserted between Sections 359 and 396 of the
10 same Act to be denominated as Section 395-A, which shall read as follows:

11 **"SECTION 395-A. APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF BARANGAY**
12 **HEALTH WORKERS - THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER AS ACCREDITED AND**
13 **RECOMMENDED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH BOARD IN**
14 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883,**
15 **OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BENEFITS**
16 **ACT OF 1996, SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY MAYOR OF**
17 **THE AREA WHERE SUCH BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER WILL BE APPOINTED IS**
18 **LOCATED. A BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO**
19 **HONORARIA, ALLOWANCES AND SUCH OTHER BENEFITS TO WHICH OTHER**
20 **APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS MAY BE ENTITLED TO. NO PERSON DULY**
21 **APPOINTED AS A BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE REMOVED EXCEPT**
22 **FOR VALID CAUSE AS PROVIDED UNDER EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND**
23 **REGULATIONS AND ONLY AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING."**

24 **SEC. 6.** Section 393, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Local Government Code of
25 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

26 "Section 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials. –

27 (a) Barangay officials, including barangay *tanods* and members of the *lupong*
28 *tagapamayapa*, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other
29 emoluments as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal or city
30 ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Code, but in no case shall
31 it be less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per month for the *punong*
32 barangay and Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per month for the *sangguniang*
33 barangay members, barangay treasurer, [and] barangay secretary **AND**

1 **BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS:** *Provided, however,* That the annual
2 appropriations for personal services shall be subject to budgetary limitations
3 prescribed under Title Five, Book II of this Code: **PROVIDED**
4 **FURTHERMORE, THAT THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS CODE**
5 **SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE APPLICATION OF AND**
6 **ENTITLEMENT TO OTHER INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS FOR**
7 **BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW SUCH AS**
8 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6942 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE**
9 **KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS BENEFITS AND**
10 **INCENTIVES ACT.**

11 (b) The *Punong Barangay*, the *Sangguniang Barangay* members, the *Barangay*
12 treasurer, [and] the *Barangay* secretary **AND THE BARANGAY HEALTH**
13 **WORKER** shall also: xxx

14 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Interior
15 and Local Government, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, shall within
16 ninety (90) days from the enactment of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations
17 necessary for the implementation of this Act.

18 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** - If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
19 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected
20 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

21 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations
22 and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed
23 or modified accordingly.

24 **SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect immediately after its
25 publication in at least two national newspapers of general circulation.

26
27 *Approved,*