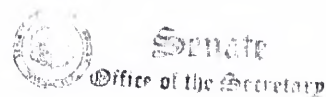


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



'22 JUL 12 P5:13

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 427**

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN**  
**BARANGAYS, PROVIDING FOR THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES,**  
**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The national health policy of our country is clearly articulated in Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution: "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 the people at affordable cost." By virtue of Section 17 of Title I of the 1991 Local Government Code, the delivery of basic services and facilities such as health and social welfare services were devolved to the local government units down to the barangay level. Thus, the barangay health centers are maintained with the help of barangay health workers who voluntarily render primary health care services to the community.

Barangay Health Workers serve as the frontliners in the barangay in providing basic health services. They play a vital role in accomplishing the primary health care approach towards health empowerment by providing accessible and acceptable health services in the barangay level.

Despite their essential role and function, they are only considered as volunteers in the community. As such, they are only entitled to meager incentives and benefits.

Moreover, they are not given the security of tenure that befits the level of commitment necessitated by the role that BHWs play.

To address the existing policy shortfall, and to give due recognition to the role and services of BHWs in the delivery of our primary health care services in the community, this measure proposes to grant BHWs the compensation and benefits package, including security of tenure, of public health workers. This bill also mandates the Department of Health (DOH) to determine and recommend the number of needed BHWs in each barangay.

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

  
**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO** 



Senate

Office of the Secretary

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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  
4       Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5       protect and promote the right to health of the people by providing the conditions of  
6       health empowerment, where each individual has adequate access to information and  
7       services that will bring about health and well-being, and by delivering effective health  
8       care programs and services based on the needs of the communities. Towards this  
9       end, the State recognizes that the Primary Health Care Approach is an effective  
10      strategy towards realizing health empowerment and effective health care programs  
11      and services through community-based participatory strategies.

12  
13      The State recognizes the indispensable role of Barangay Health Workers as the  
14      front liners in the Primary Health Care Approach; and the importance of strengthening  
15      and systematizing their services, and of providing them just compensation, consistent  
16      with the principle of equal pay for equal work and work of equal value.

1           Sec. 3. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to all Barangay Health Workers (BHWs):  
2    Provided, That when the BHW receives a fixed salary by virtue of a permanent  
3    appointment in any other government office, by election to another public office or by  
4    employment in the private sector, their coverage under this Act shall automatically  
5    cease and they shall then be covered under other appropriate laws.

6  
7           Sec 4. *Number of BHWs.* – There shall be an appropriate number of BHWs in  
8    each barangay in consideration of the number of households in a barangay. Such  
9    number of BHWs shall be determined by the Department of Health (DOH) in  
10   consultation with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG):  
11   *Provided,* That the total number of BHWs per barangay shall not be less than two (2),  
12   nor more than one percent (1%) of the barangay's total population.

13  
14          Sec. 5. *Duties and Responsibilities.* – The BHWs shall perform in their respective  
15   barangays the followings duties and responsibilities:

- 16       a.) Those which the DOH, or the city, municipal or barangay sanggunian shall  
17       provide by ordinance, subject to the guidelines to be promulgated jointly by  
18       the DOH and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), in  
19       connection with the delivery of basic and primary health care services, the  
20       implementation of family planning, feeding and nutrition, and immunization  
21       programs, disaster response and mitigation, sanitation programs, and anti-drug  
22       abuse rehabilitation and information campaigns, and the establishment of  
23       national or local health management information systems;
- 24       b.) Provide assistance to physicians, dentists, nurses, nutritionists, or midwives  
25       who are employed, stationed, or are otherwise providing services at the  
26       barangay health center, daycare center or birthing center;
- 27       c.) Administer first-aid, and respond in natural calamities and disaster; and
- 28       d.) Gather data about the health profile of the barangay, incidence of  
29       communicable or chronic diseases, environmental or health hazards in the  
30       barangay, and other public health-relevant event or information, and report the  
31       same to the local health board.



1           Sec. 6. *Compensation and Benefits.* In addition to the benefits provided under  
2 Republic Act No. 7883, otherwise known as the "Barangay Health Workers Benefits  
3 and Incentives Act of 1995", all BHWs shall be entitled to the following:

4           (a) Honoraria – All BHWs shall receive a monthly honorarium of Three  
5           Thousand Pesos (Php3,000.00) chargeable against the funds of the  
6           barangay;

7           (b) Membership in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) - The  
8           GSIS shall establish a social insurance program to provide life insurance  
9           and social protection to BHWs;

10          (c) Membership in the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine  
11          Health Insurance Corporation – All BHWs shall be enrolled into the National  
12          Health Insurance Program in accordance with Republic Act 11223m  
13          otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act", and other existing laws,  
14          rules and regulations;

15          (d) Membership in the Home Development Mutual Fund – All BHWs shall be  
16          covered under the mutual provident savings system of the Home  
17          Development Mutual Fund (PagIBIG Fund);

18          (e) Health Emergency Allowance – All BHWs who render service in areas  
19          declared under a state of public emergency shall be entitled to the  
20          compensation package and other benefits provided under Republic Act No.  
21          11712 otherwise known as the "Public Health Emergency Benefits and  
22          Allowances for Health Care Workers Act";

23          (f) Sick, vacation and maternity or paternity leave – All BHWs shall be entitled  
24          to sick, vacation and maternity or paternity leaves as may be prescribed by  
25          the barangay: Provided, that BHWs shall continue to receive their monthly  
26          honoraria and other allowances applicable, while on authorized leave of  
27          absence;

28          (g) Christmas bonus or cash gift – All BHWs shall receive a Christmas bonus or  
29          cash gift which shall not be less than their monthly honoraria once a year  
30          chargeable against the funds of the barangay;

31          (h) Training and Skills Upgrading – All BHWs shall be required to undergo free  
32          annual training and skills upgrading conducted by the DOH or its partner

1 agencies and institutions;

2 (i) Civil Service Eligibility – All BHWs who have rendered at least three (3)  
3 years continuous service from the approval of this Act shall be granted civil  
4 service eligibility the Civil Service Commission;

5 (j) Legal Indemnification - BHWs shall be entitled to an equitable legal  
6 indemnification package in the form of legal assistance and other forms of  
7 legal protection and indemnification for all legal costs and expenses  
8 reasonably incurred in any administrative, civil, or criminal action, suit or  
9 proceeding to which they have been made a party by reason of the  
10 performance of their official functions or duties, unless they are finally  
11 adjudged in such action or proceeding to be guilty of an offense;

12 (k) Other benefits, incentives and allowances - Other benefits, incentives and  
13 allowances not enumerated in this Act may be provided by the LGUs subject  
14 to availability of funds.  
15

16 *Sec. 7. Security of Tenure.* – All duly appointed BHWs shall not be terminated  
17 except for cause provided under existing civil service rules and regulations, and only  
18 after notice and hearing: Provided, That if a BHW, upon appeal, is found by the Civil  
19 Service Commission (CSC) to be unjustly dismissed from service, the said BHW shall  
20 be entitled to reinstatement without loss of incentives, benefits and allowances from  
21 the time of termination up to the time of reinstatement chargeable against the funds  
22 of the barangay.  
23

24 *Sec. 8. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of the  
25 provisions of this Act shall be sourced from the funds of the barangays or the  
26 Department of Health, as the case may be, as provided in Sections 6 and 7 of this Act.  
27 In the event that the fund of the barangay is insufficient to effectively implement the  
28 provisions of this Act or when the amount exceeds the limitations on Personnel  
29 Services as provided in Section 331(b) of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended,  
30 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991", the Sangguniang Barangay  
31 concerned may adjust the amount of the monthly honoraria provided under this Act.  
32

1  
2       Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the  
3 effectivity of this Act, the DOH and DILG, in consultation with the leagues of the  
4 barangays, cities and municipalities, and existing health workers union and barangay  
5 health workers organizations, shall issue the implementing rules and regulations to  
6 carry out the provisions of this Act.

7  
8       Sec. 10. *Non-diminution of benefits.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to  
9 eliminate or in any way diminish entitlements, or other benefits being provided to or  
10 enjoyed by BHWs under Republic Act No. 7883 or other laws and issuances.

11  
12       Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 7883 otherwise known as the"  
13 Barangay Health Workers Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995", is hereby amended  
14 accordingly. All other laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations  
15 and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, amended  
16 or modified accordingly.

17  
18       Sec. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is subsequently  
19 declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain  
20 in full force and effect.

21  
22       Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its  
23 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the  
24 Philippines.

*Approved,*