

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




Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JUL 20 P5:25

SENATE

S.B. No. 726

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES, ASSIGNING ONE
REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

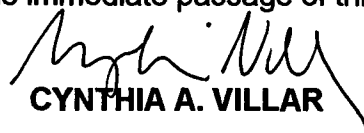
In 2001, the Philippine economy experienced a surge in growth due to the increased demand for Filipino professionals abroad, foremost of which is the demand for registered nurses. This demand for Filipino nurses abroad indeed helped to fuel the Philippine economy with the remittances to the country sent by the Filipino nurses abroad. However, the foreign demand for Filipino nurses have waned through the years, thus leaving many of our nurses unemployed and/or underemployed here in the Philippines. The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) estimated that there are at least 300,000 unemployed nurses in the country¹.

The unemployment/underemployment of our nurses here or their non-deployment for abroad should not be considered a problem, but must be viewed as a welcome opportunity. The vast resources of competent Filipino nurses actually presents a welcome opportunity for our government to improve the delivery of health services in the country, particularly in far-flung barangays normally not catered by the conventional government health centers. The government may engage the services of the nurses to be at the forefront of the government health care programs.

In this connection, the attached bill proposes that the government mobilize and utilize these unemployed nurses by dispatching at least one registered nurse to every barangay in the Philippines. This will not only address the problem of the unemployment and underemployment of our professional nurses, but will be considered a leap in improving the health service delivery in the country.

The duties of each dispatched nurse include educating their respective barangays on the importance of health, hygiene, sanitation, and wellness. Their goal is not only to address the immediate medical needs of the community, but also, through education, to prevent illnesses and ailments. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

In view of the foregoing, I recommend the immediate passage of this bill.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

¹ <http://www.manilatimes.net/in-need-of-nurses-and-nurses-in-need/69332/>




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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 “A Nurse in Every
2 Barangay Act of 2016”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policies.* – The State affirms labor as a primary social
4 economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.
5 Towards this end, it is further declared the policy of the State to promote a sustained
6 and cultivated reservoir of national talents, preserving the skills and aptitude of our
7 trained professionals, particularly our nurses, through the utilization and
8 maximization of their medical knowledge that will likewise help promote the right of
9 the people to health, thereby achieving the realization of a healthy and productive
10 citizenry.

11 SEC. 3. *Program of the Employment of Nurses in Every Barangay* – There is
12 hereby established a Program for the Employment of Nurses in every barangay, for
13 the purpose of improving the delivery of public health care services, and to provide
14 relevant and timely education on wellness, hygiene, sanitation and other health
15 safety measures to the poorest communities in rural areas as well as underprivileged
16 communities in the urban areas, while providing gainful employment to registered
17 nurses and utilizing their professional competencies.

18 SEC. 4. *Role of Local Government Units.*—Each local government unit is
19 mandated to employ one (1) registered nurse in every barangay within their
20 jurisdiction.

21 SEC. 5. *Recruitment, Selection, and Training.* – The local government units
22 shall secure the assistance of the Department of Health in recruiting, selecting, and
23 in training the registered nurses employed by Local government units to ensure their
24 capability in addressing public health and wellness concerns of the barangays.

1 For this purpose, the Department of Health is hereby mandated to issue
2 guidelines setting the qualifications of nurses to be deployed to the barangays as
3 well as come up with a module for the relevant training of these nurses. The
4 guidelines to be set shall in no case discriminate against the hiring of fresh
5 graduates or newly passed registered nurses.

6 **SEC. 6. *Minimum Qualification of Nurses***– Nurses engaged under the program
7 shall have the following minimum qualifications: must have a valid RN license issued
8 by the Professional Regulatory Commission; must be willing to relocate to its
9 assigned area, even temporarily; and must have passion for public health concerns.

10 **SEC. 7. *Stipend*** – Nurses employed under the program shall be entitled to a
11 monthly stipend preferably equal to salary grade 15, consistent with the mandatory
12 minimum entry-level pay for government nurses under the Philippine Nursing Act of
13 2002, or Republic Act No. 9173.

14 **SEC. 8. *Certification*** – Nurses under this program are required to provide an
15 annual health status report regarding the average health and wellness of the
16 barangay and must provide suggestions to the local government units to improve the
17 health and wellness of all citizens of the barangay.

18 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations***. - The amount necessary to implement the program
19 under this Act shall be initially appropriated out of the funds of the respective local
20 government units. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the full implementation of
21 this program shall be included in the respective budget of the local government units
22 in the General Appropriation Act.

23 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations***. – Within sixty days (60) from
24 the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and DOH shall promulgate the implementing rules
25 and regulations, as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the
26 provisions of this Act.

27 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause***. - If any part or provision of this Act is held
28 unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts or provision hereof which are not affected
29 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

30 **SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause***. - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
31 proclamations, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed
32 and/or modified accordingly.

33 **SEC. 13. *Effectivity***. – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) following its
34 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in
35 the Philippines

36 Approved,