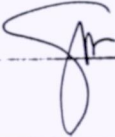


**SENATE**

'19 JUL 11 A11 :13

S. No. 342

RECEIVED BY



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Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

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**AN ACT**

**PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES, ASSIGNING AT LEAST ONE REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

As a backgrounder, the Philippine economy experienced a surge in growth in 2001 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 has waned through the years, thus leaving many of our nurses unemployed and/or underemployed here in the Philippines. As of January 2014, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) estimated that there are at least 300,000 unemployed nurses in the country<sup>1</sup> and this figure is believed to have increased 5 years hence.

The unemployment and/or underemployment of our nurses here or their non-deployment for abroad should not be considered a problem, but must be viewed as an 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

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<sup>1</sup> Herrera, E. In need of nurses and nurses in need. The Manila Times. 24 January 2014.

conventional government health centers. The government may engage the services of the nurses to be at the forefront of the government health care programs.

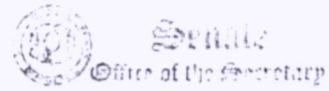
In this connection, the attached bill proposes that the government mobilize and utilize these unemployed or underemployed nurses by dispatching at least one registered nurse to every barangay in the Philippines. This will not only address the problem of the unemployment and underemployment of our professional 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**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'19 JUL 11 A11 :14

**SENATE**

S. No. 342

RECEIVED 

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Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES, ASSIGNING AT LEAST ONE REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 2019".

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  
6 sustained and cultivated reservoir of national talents, preserving the skills and  
7 aptitude of our trained professionals, particularly our nurses, through the utilization  
8 and maximization of their medical knowledge that will likewise help promote the  
9 right of the people to health, thereby achieving the realization of a healthy and  
10 productive 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

1 relevant and timely education on wellness, hygiene, sanitation and other health  
2 safety measures to the poorest communities in rural areas as well as underprivileged  
3 communities in the urban areas, while providing gainful employment to registered  
4 nurses and utilizing their professional competencies.

5         *Sec. 4. Role of Local Government Units.* – Each local government unit is  
6 mandated to employ one (1) registered nurse in every barangay within their  
7 jurisdiction.

8         *Sec. 5. Recruitment, Selection, and Training.* – The local government units  
9 shall secure the assistance of the Department of Health in recruiting, selecting, and  
10 in training the registered nurses employed by Local government units to ensure their  
11 capability in addressing public health and wellness concerns of the barangays.

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

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

21         *Sec. 7. Stipend.* – Nurses employed under the program shall be entitled to a  
22 monthly stipend preferably equal to salary grade 15, consistent with the mandatory  
23 minimum entry-level pay for government nurses under the Philippine Nursing Act of  
24 2002, or Republic Act No. 9173.

25         *Sec. 8. Certification.* – Nurses under this program are required to provide an  
26 annual health status report regarding the average health and wellness of the

1 barangay and must provide suggestions to the local government units to improve  
2 the health and wellness of all citizens of the barangay.

3       Sec. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the program  
4 under this Act shall be initially appropriated out of the funds of the respective local  
5 government units. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the full implementation of  
6 this program shall be included in the respective budget of the local government units  
7 in the General Appropriation Act.

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

12       Sec. 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is  
13 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions  
14 hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

15       Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
16 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to  
17 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18       Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
19 following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general  
20 circulation.

21       Approved,