

SENATE
S. No. 470

'19 JUL 15 A10:35

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

AN ACT
PROVIDING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND
VOLUNTEER WORKERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay officials and volunteer workers, due to their proximity to the people, are the front-line civil servants and primary public service providers on matters concerning public health, public order and safety, alternative dispute resolution, and even disaster risk reduction and management. As such, the success of government plans, programs and projects, especially in the remote areas of the country depends considerably on the capacity of the barangay government to implement the laws and execute government interventions.

Yet despite the Herculean task the national government has imposed on barangay officials and volunteer workers, the national government has yet to provide them with the remuneration that is commensurate with the role they perform in public service delivery. To date, barangay officials and volunteer workers such as barangay secretary, barangay treasurer, barangay health workers, barangay nutritionists, barangay tanods, barangay social workers, and others are ranked the lowest among all civil servants in terms of remuneration, benefits and privileges enjoyed and received.

This bill is endorsed in recognition of the significant contribution of barangay officials and volunteer workers in nation-building. It seeks to provide social security benefits for barangay officials and volunteer workers through government instrumentalities like the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and Home Mutual Development Fund (PagIBIG Fund). This bill mandates the membership and enrolment of all barangay officials and volunteer workers to the GSIS life insurance and social protection program, the PhilHealth National Health Insurance Program, and the PagIBIG Fund Voluntary Membership Program.

Finally, this bill also requires the submission of a periodic report to Congress to ensure the sustainability of the program and the financial stability of the government corporations. These interventions are devised with the end in view of promoting the welfare of the people who ensure the safety, security, amity and well-being of Filipino communities in times of peace and crisis.

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



RALPH G. RECTO

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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 Officials and*
2 *Volunteer Workers' Social Security Benefits Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
4 empower government officials and public volunteer workers at the grassroots level. In line
5 with this policy and in cognizance of the crucial role of barangay officials and volunteer
6 workers in nation building, the State shall, through the provision of social security benefits,
7 protect their rights and promote their welfare.

8 Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – All Punong Barangays, Members of the Sangguniang Barangay,
9 Chairpersons of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurers,
10 and qualified Members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay
11 Tanods, and other barangay volunteer workers shall be automatically covered by this Act:
12 *Provided,* That the coverage for qualified barangay volunteer workers shall be made in
13 accordance with pertinent laws and regulations and based on the qualification standards
14 that may be established by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
15 and other government agencies concerned: *Provided, further,* That when the barangay
16 official or volunteer worker receives a fixed salary whether in the same capacity or by
17 virtue of a permanent appointment in any other government office, by election to another
18 public office or by employment in the private sector, their coverage under this Act shall
19 automatically cease and they shall then be covered under the appropriate law/s: *Provided,*
20 *finally,* That any of the abovementioned barangay official or volunteer worker who shall
21 automatically lose coverage or cease to be covered by this Act by virtue of termination or
22 resignation from office for any lawful cause shall have the option to continue the coverage
23 by paying the required premiums thereon in accordance with pertinent laws and
24 regulations.

1 *Sec. 4. Membership of Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the Government*
2 *Service Insurance System.* – The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) shall
3 establish a social insurance program to provide life insurance and social protection to
4 barangay officials and volunteer workers in accordance with pertinent laws and
5 regulations.

6 *Sec. 5. Enrolment of Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the National*
7 *Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.* – The
8 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall enroll non-member barangay
9 officials and volunteer workers into the National Health Insurance Program in accordance
10 with pertinent laws and regulations.

11 *Sec. 6. Membership of Non-Member Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in*
12 *the Voluntary Membership Program of the Home Development Mutual Fund.* – The Home
13 Development Mutual Fund (PagIBIG Fund) shall enroll non-member barangay officials and
14 volunteer workers into the PagIBIG Fund Voluntary Membership Program in accordance
15 with pertinent laws and regulations.

16 *Sec. 7. Report to Congress.* – The GSIS, PhilHealth and PagIBIG Fund shall submit
17 an annual report to Congress on the implementation of the Barangay Officials and
18 Volunteer Workers' Social Security Benefit Program no later than June 30 of every year.
19 This report shall contain the necessary actuarial studies and calculations to ensure the
20 sustainability of the social security benefits program and the financial stability of their
21 respective agencies. GSIS, PhilHealth and PagIBIG Fund shall submit their respective
22 report either in printed form or by way of electronic document.

23 *Sec. 8. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of the
24 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act following
25 its enactment into law.

26 *Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
27 effectivity of this Act, the DILG and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
28 shall, in coordination with the GSIS, the PagIBIG Fund, and the PhilHealth and after
29 consultation with the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas (LnB) and other directly affected
30 stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the
31 provisions of this Act.

32 *Sec. 10. Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is
33 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or portions not affected thereby shall
34 remain in full force and effect.

35 *Sec. 11. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
36 issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
37 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

Approved,