

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



Senate

Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

S. No. 923

RECEIVED BY:

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Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

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**AN ACT**

**MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS WITHIN THE COVERAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291 ENTITLED "THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is unique with its barangay government system. From the old system of *barangay* leadership in communities, the citizens learn to support one another in the achievement of their collective goals, resolve concerns and issues confronting them and foster the great sense of *bayanihan* that defines the Filipino way of life.

In the recent years, the barangay serves as the closest organized local unit for the people. They are in the first line of access in terms of delivering basic services. In the Local Government Code of 1991, the role of barangay officials is aptly recognized as they play the day-to-day operations of governance. They are active in providing round-the-clock security, threshing out the differences amongst

neighbors in the *Katarungang Pambarangay*, enforcing of basic laws and policies, ensuring the safety of the Barangay, and other concerns, among others.

The bill seeks to augment the meager compensation and benefits enjoyed by the barangay officials by making them part and covered by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), thereby amending Republic Act No. 8291 or the Government Service Insurance system Act of 1997. The inclusion of the barangay officials under the GSIS coverage is a benefit granted not only in recognition of the untold sacrifices and dedications of the thousands of barangay officials for the upkeep of their respective barangays.

Therefore, the swift approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



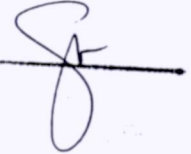
**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

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GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997", 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 "GSIS Coverage of  
2 Barangay Officials Act."

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
4 to promote the welfare of barangay officials, who make democracy function in the  
5 smallest territorial and political subdivision of the government. As part of the  
6 promotion of their welfare, the State shall ensure that they are covered by the  
7 existing insurance, medical and health service programs of the government under  
8 existing laws.

9           Sec. 3. *Barangay Officials.* – For the purpose of this Act, barangay officials  
10 shall refer to the Punong Barangay and the Sangguniang Barangay members,

1 whether elected or appointed in accordance with Section 45 of the Local  
2 Government Code.

3 Sec. 4. Section 2(d) of Republic Act No. 8291 is hereby further amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 "SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* - Unless the  
6 context otherwise indicates, the following terms shall  
7 mean:

8 - x x x -

9 (d) Employee or Member – Any person, receiving  
10 compensation while in the service of an employer as  
11 defined herein, whether by election or appointment,  
12 irrespective of status of appointment, including barangay  
13 and sanggunian officials, **WHETHER OR NOT**  
14 **RECEIVING FIXED MONTHLY COMPENSATION**

Sec. 5. Section 2(i) of the same Republic Act is hereby further amended to  
read as follows:

15 "SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.*- Unless the  
16 context otherwise indicates, the following terms shall  
17 mean:

18 - x x x -

19 (i) Compensation – The basic pay or salary  
20 received by an employee, pursuant to his  
21 election/appointment, excluding per diems, bonuses,

1 overtime pay, honoraria **EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF**  
2 **BARANGAY AND SANGGUIAN OFFICIALS,**  
3 allowances and any other emoluments received in  
4 addition to the basic pay which are not integrated into  
5 the basic pay under existing laws”

6 Sec. 6. *Compulsory Coverage.* – All barangay officials shall be included in the  
7 compulsory membership of the Government Service Insurance System under Section  
8 3 of Republic Act No. 8291.

9 The GSIS shall make special provisions in order to facilitate the inclusion of  
10 barangay officials in its benefits coverage.

11 Sec. 7. *Limitation of the Coverage.* – Barangay officials who are already  
12 enjoying insurance, retirement, disability, separation, unemployment benefit, health  
13 and medical insurance from the government shall not be covered by this Act.

14 Sec. 8. *Subsidy from the LGUs.* – The provinces, cities, or municipalities,  
15 subject to the availability of funds of their respective local government units and  
16 without sacrificing delivery of adequate basic services to their respective  
17 constituents, should devise lawful schemes, systems and programs allowing them to  
18 contribute or subsidize the monthly contributions to GSIS of the barangay officials.

19 Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The GSIS, in coordination and in  
20 consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, *Liga ng mga*  
21 *Barangay*, and other agencies concerned, shall promulgate and adopt such rules and  
22 guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

23 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is  
24 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions  
25 hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

1           Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
2 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to  
3 the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4           Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
5 following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general  
6 circulation.

7           Approved,