

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

}

6 JUN -7 2014

SENATE

S. No. 2322

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At present, the salaries, allowances, and other benefits of public health workers are paid by the local government units (LGUs) where they serve. However, many poor LGUs merely depend on their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) which can hardly finance their operations, particularly the delivery of basic services to their constituents. Due to lack of funds, many fourth, fifth, and sixth class municipalities and provinces are having difficulty shelling out resources for the salaries and other benefits of their public health workers resulting in delayed payments which last for days or even months. Unfortunately, the inability of the LGUs to remunerate especially the hazard pay is one of the main factors that have become a disincentive in the performance of the health workers.

This bill seeks to promote the welfare of public health workers coming from the 4th, 5th and 6th class municipalities and provinces by directing the national government to entirely shoulder their salaries, allowances, and other benefits.

Through the national government, which has greater financial capability, the means by which the public health workers are compensated will be enhanced and their morale will be improved. Furthermore, this will give the indigent LGUs a greater opportunity to program their resources to carryout developmental goals.

Due to the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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**AN ACT AMENDING THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7305 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
MAGNA CARTA OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Section 6 (c) of the Republic Act No. 7305, otherwise known as the
"Magna Carta of Public Health Workers is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 6 (c) - a Public Health Worker shall not be transferred and/or re-assigned,
except when made in the interest of public service, in which case, the employee
concerned shall be informed of the reasons therefore in writing. If the Public Health
Worker believes that there is no justification for the transfer and/or re-assignment,
he/she may appeal his/ her case to the Civil Service Commission, which shall cause his/
her transfer and/ or re-assignment to be held in abeyance: Provided, that no transfer
and/ or reassignment whatsoever shall be made three (3) months before any local or
national elections; Provided, further, That the necessary expenses of the transfer and/
or reassignment of the Public Health Worker and his/ her immediate family shall be paid
for by the Government; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IN FOURTH CLASS, FIFTH
CLASS, AND SIXTH CLASS LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS), THE SAID
TRANSFER AND/ OR REASSIGNMENT EXPENSES SHALL BE PAID IN FULL BY
THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(DOH)."

SEC.2. Section 19 (b) of the same Act is also hereby amended to read as
follows:

"Section 19 (b) Equality in Salary Scale - The salary scales of public health
workers whose salaries are appropriated by a city, municipality, district, or provincial

government shall not be less than those provided for public health workers of the national government: Provided, That the national government shall subsidize the amount necessary to pay the difference between that received by nationally-paid and locally-paid health workers of equivalent positions: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IN FOURTH CLASS, FIFTH CLASS, AND SIXTH CLASS LGUS, THE SALARIES, WHICH INCLUDE PAYMENT FOR OVERTIME WORK, WORK DURING REST DAY, AND NIGHT-SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL, OF MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL HEALTH WORKERS SHALL BE PAID IN FULL BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DOH."

SEC. 3. Section 20 of the same Act is also hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 20. Additional Compensation - Notwithstanding Section 12 of Republic Act No. 6758, public health workers shall receive the following allowances: hazard allowance, subsistence allowance, longevity pay, laundry allowance and remote assignment allowance. PROVIDED, THAT IN FOURTH CLASS, FIFTH CLASS, AND SIXTH CLASS LGUS, THE SAID ALLOWANCES SHALL PAID IN FULL BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE DOH."

SEC. 4. Section 26 of the same Act is also hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 26. Housing - All Public Health Workers who are on tour of duty and those who, because of unavoidable circumstances are forced to stay in the hospital, sanitarium or health infirmary premises, shall be entitled to free living quarters within the hospitals, sanitarium or health infirmary or if such quarters are not available, shall receive quarters' allowance FROM THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT as may be determined by the Secretary of Health and other appropriate government agencies concerned: Provided, That this rate shall be reviewed periodically and increased accordingly by the Secretary of Health in consultation with the appropriate government agencies concerned.

For purposes of this section, the DOH is authorized to develop housing projects in its own lands, not otherwise devoted for other uses, for public health workers in coordination with appropriate government agencies."

SEC. 5. Appropriations. - Such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. - If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, such shall not invalidate any other section or provision of this Act.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen days after publication in the Official Gazette or two major newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,