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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 615



INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides, among others, that "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost."

Drugstores are normally non-existent in barangays outside of the town proper and most of our people in the countryside are deprived of access even to basic drugs and medicines when they are afflicted and in need.

This bill, by institutionalizing the Botica sa Barangay Program, should provide the answer to this basic need of our people in the countryside. Within a period of three (3) years, the Department of Health is enjoined to establish drugstores in every barangay so as to make available drugs and medicines for common illnesses such as fever, pain, cough, colds, and others, including vitamin and mineral preparations.

Eventually, the list of drugs could be expanded to better respond to the needs of every barangay and community in the country.


Originally filed in the 12th Congress but failed to be enacted into law, this representation strongly believes that since the delivery of health services is one area where the government has long been inefficient and ineffective, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY DRUGSTORES,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "BOTICA SA BARANGAY", AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title - This Act shall be known and cited as the "**Botica sa Barangay Act of 2010.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall provide adequate social services and endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to every barangay at affordable cost.

SEC. 3. Botica sa Barangay. - The Department of Health shall, within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act, undertake a three-year program for the establishment of *barangay drugstores or botica sa barangay (BSB)* in every barangay, giving priority to barangays on the basis of population, poverty incidence, extent of medical health care and/or services, geographical conditions, financial and other socio-economic factors and such other considerations as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of national plans and policies on social services, health and medical care.

SEC. 4. Establishment Priority. - The Department of Health (DOH) shall, in the establishment of the BSB, undertake prior consultations with the Municipal Development Council concerned; *Provided*, That in the establishment of the BSB, highest priority shall be given to those economically depressed barangays. Existing BSBs shall be maintained and shall be covered by relevant provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. Drugs Available. - The BSB shall make available, only those drugs included in the "core list" of the national drug formulary, and the names thereof listed in their respective generic and trade names made available to the public.

SEC. 6. Botica sa Barangay Aide. - Sale of medicines at the BSB shall be facilitated by an aide, known as the Botica sa Barangay Aide, who shall be chosen by and trained under the direction of the DOH.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Guidelines.* - This Department of Health shall issue the necessary rules and guidelines as may be needed to fully implement the provisions of this Act. In addition, the DOH shall also embark on a sustained promotional campaign to increase the community's awareness of the BSB through its personnel, non-governmental organizations, barangay official and the print and broadcast media.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees and other executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* -This Act shall take effect upon fifteen (15) days after complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,