

SENATE

S.B. No. 1394

LINEARLY

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill provides for the establishment of barangay drugstores or *Botica sa Barangay* in every barangay in the country to provide access to adequate and affordable medicines.

Since its establishment in 2003, the *Botika ng Barangay* Program of the Department of Health has 8,525 outlets all over the country, providing access to low-priced generic over-the-counter drugs and five medicated drugs. On the other hand, as of 2007, there are 26,386 drugstores under the supervision of the Bureau of Food and Drugs. Clearly, the established *boticas* provide service to less than 10 percent of the country's 41,943 barangays.

This bill aims to remedy the limited number of boticas in the Philippines by making it mandatory for the Department of Health to establish public drug stores in every barangay in the country and offer drugs included in the "core list" of the National Drug Formulary such as analgesics, anti-convulsants, anti-migraine and anti-pyretics. Areas that have high poverty and population rates and limited medical and/or health services will be prioritized. Other factors for consideration are the geographical and socio-economic conditions of the areas. The highest priority will be given to the economically depressed areas. Existing public drug stores in the area shall be maintained and covered by this proposed measure.

Finally, this bill guarantees the safety in the sale of medicines through the supervision of a *Botica sa Barangay* aide to be chosen and trained under the direction of the Department of Health.

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

LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

SENATE

S.B. No. 1394

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

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

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State shall protect and promote the right
5 to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards his
6 end, the State shall provide adequate social services and endeavor to make essential
7 goods, health and other social services available to every barangay at affordable
8 cost.

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

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19 **SEC. 4. Establishment Priority.** - The Department of Health shall, in the
20 establishment of the BSB, undertake prior consultations with the Municipal
21 Development Council concerned: *Provided*, That in the establishment of the BSB,
22 highest priority shall be given to those economically depressed barangays.

23

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

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

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

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16 **SEC. 8. *Funds.*** The budget required for this endeavor shall be sourced from
17 the appropriations for the Department of Health.

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19 **SEC 9. *Separability Clause.*** Should any part or provision of this Act be
20 declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not otherwise
21 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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23 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees and other
24 executive issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof that are inconsistent with
25 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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27 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect upon its complete publication
28 in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
29 circulation.

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31 Approved,