

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1444**

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**Introduced by: HON. HUSSIN U. AMIN**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The present political system has allowed Local Government Units to exercise more power in the maintenance of peace and order within their respective area of jurisdiction.

Thus it is not uncommon to see barangay tanods, not only in the rural areas but also in the metropolis, who actually do police work, e.g. night patrol, manning checkpoints, and even effecting arrests.

While this situation may be tolerable considering the worsening problem on criminality, still, it may be pointed out that the observance of the Bill of Rights is of paramount concern.

Barangay tanods doing police work may be good idea but the State must also ensure that the rights of everyone even at the barangay level must be respected and guaranteed.

This bill seeks to address such concern by making it mandatory for barangay tanods to undergo education on human rights particularly in effecting arrests. This mandatory and continuing education may not totally eradicate human rights violations in the country, but it is definitely a concrete positive step towards such direction.

  
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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR A MANDATORY AND CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS**  
**EDUCATION FOR ALL BARANGAY TANODS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as "Mandatory and Continuing Human Rights Education Act of 2004."

Section 2. *State Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human being and guarantee full respect to human rights.

Towards such end, it is hereby mandated to conduct a mandatory and continuing human rights education for persons who do police work in the basic political unit of the country-the barangay tanods.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* For the purposes of this Act, the following shall mean:

- a) *Barangay Tanod* – any person duly accredited and recognized as such by the Sangguniang Barangay and authorized by the Sanggunian to maintain peace and order within the barangay's area of responsibility.
- b) *Human Rights Education* – an education curriculum to be designed by the Commission on Human Rights consisting of subjects covering the Bill of Rights of the Philippine Constitution, pertinent provisions of the Rules of

Court relating to Arrests and other laws and documents on Human Rights which may be conducted in a lecture or seminar forum on a regular basis.

**Section 4. *Mandatory and Continuing Human Rights Education.*** All barangay tanods in the country shall undergo a mandatory and continuing human rights education to be conducted on a regular basis by the Commission on Human Rights which time, date and place of education shall be determined jointly by the Commission on Human Rights and the Sangguniang Barangay concerned.

It shall be the duty of the Sangguniang Barangay to ensure that all its duly accredited Barangay Tanods shall have undergone the mandated human rights education.

The Sangguniang Barangay and the Commission on Human Rights may issue a certificate of attendance to the barangay tanods concerned.

**Section 5. *Appropriation.*** The Barangay concerned and the Municipality where such barangay belongs shall allocate funds needed for the implementation of this Act within their respective jurisdiction.

**Section 6. *Role of the Commission on Human Rights and the Department of Interior and Local Governments.*** The Commission on Human Rights and the Department of Interior and Local Governments shall jointly promulgate the Rules necessary for the implementation of this Act.

The Commission on Human Rights shall have the duty to make a curriculum and education materials necessary for the purposes of this Act.

**Section 7. *Transitory Provision.*** The Commission on Human Rights shall begin to conduct Human Rights Education one year after the effectivity of this Act, to begin with the barangays within the Metro Manila area.

After five years from the effectivity of this Act, no person shall be allowed to be accredited and appointed as Barangay Tanod without a certification from the Commission on Human Rights that said person has undergone the mandatory Human Rights Education.

**Section 8. *Separability Clause.*** Any provision of this Act which may be declared unconstitutional shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions thereof.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity.* This act shall take effect 15 days after publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation and in the Official Gazette.

Approved.