

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1554

Introduced by HONORABLE IGNACIO T. ARROYO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to address the dearth of medical doctors in rural areas in the country in the hope of efficiently delivering basic services to our constituents.

By providing incentives to our Rural Health Unit (RHU) doctors is considered of utmost importance, we hope that most of our trained and competent medical practitioners will stay in the country instead of plying their trade abroad.

This bill seeks to provide better financial package to rural health doctors to encourage them to practice their profession in the country and in the process, help in alleviating the needs of our citizenry.

Hence, the approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.


IGNACIO T. ARROYO
Representative
5th District, Negros Occidental

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by **HONORABLE IGNACIO T. ARROYO**

**AN ACT GRANTING INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS TO RURAL HEALTH
UNIT DOCTORS 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 as the “Rural Health Unit Doctors Benefits and Incentives Act of 2004.”*

SECTION 2. *Statement of Policy* – The State shall protect and promote the right to health of people and instill health consciousness among them by giving each individual unimpaired access to health and information services. Towards this end, this Act shall provide incentives and benefits to rural health unit doctors, the frontliners in the promotion, protection and maintenance of health in the rural areas.

SECTION 3. *Definition* – The term “rural health doctor” refers to a licensed doctor of medicine employed by the municipal government, who is assigned to actively or regularly perform his official duties in a rural area or remote community.

SECTION 4. *Incentives and Benefits* – in recognition of their services, rural unit health doctors, shall in addition to other incentives and benefits granted under existing laws, be entitled to the following:

- (a) hazard allowance in an amount to be determined by the local health board of the local government unit concerned;
- (b) Subsistence allowance equivalent to the meals they take in the course of their duty, which shall be computed in accordance with prevailing circumstances as determined by the local government unit concerned;
- (c) Scholarship in the form of tuition fees in state colleges or universities to be granted up to his/her third legitimate child;
- (d) Tax exemption privileges on his/her income

- (e) Automatic promotion to the position of Medical specialist I or to the next higher rank as the case may be, under the revised compensation and Position Classification System
- (f) Free legal representation and consultation services shall be immediately provided for by the Public Attorney's Office in case of coercion, interference, and in other civil and criminal cases filed by or against rural health unit doctors arising out of or in connection with performance of their duties as such;
- (g) Zero interest on policy, salary and housing loans from the government services insurance system (GSIS) or its successor corporation shall be enjoyed by rural health unit doctors.

SECTION 5. ***Repealing Clause*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. ***Separability Clause*** – If, for any reason, any part or provisions thereof not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. ***Effectivity Clause*** – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved.