

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3164



Introduced by Congressman Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The attached bill seeks to implement Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution which provides:

“SEC. 11. 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. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children”

Notwithstanding said Constitutional mandate, lack of resources has perpetuated the deterioration of health and medical services in the countryside.

Consider the following:

- a) About three (3) million Filipino pre-school children, aged one to four, are undernourished and face the danger of death due to loss of weight and failure to grow;
- b) Some 10% of the population have tuberculosis;
- c) 30% of the population are malnourished, with 22% having second to third degree malnutrition – one of the world’s highest rates;
- d) More than half a million of the population die yearly without receiving any type of health care;
- e) According to the World Health Organization, more than 7% of the population have no access to essential drugs; and
- f) There are only about 9,000 barangay health centers to serve the country’s more than 42,000 barangays.

It is, therefore, imperative that the government addresses immediately the need for basic and essential drugs at the barangay levels.;

Drugstores are normally non-existent in barangays outside of the town proper and thus 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 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 barangay drugstores or "***Botica sa Barangay***" in every barangay making available drugs for common illnesses such as fever, pain, cough/colds and others, including vitamin and mineral preparations.

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

The urgent passage of this bill is, therefore, recommended.



HARLIN CAST. ABAYON

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY DRUGSTORES TO BE
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. **Title.** – This Act shall be known and cited as the “**Botica Sa Barangay Act**”.

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 (3) year program for the establishment of Barangay drugstores or “**Boltica sa Barangay**” (BSB) in every barangay giving priority to barangays on the basis of population, poverty incidence, extent of medical and health care and/or services, geographical conditions, financial and other socioeconomic factors and such other considerations as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of the national plans and policies on social services, health and medical care.

SEC. 4. **Establishment Priority.** - The Department of Health shall, in the establishment of the BSB, undertake prior consultations with the City/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. ***Sources of Funds.*** - The "***Botica sa Barangay***" shall be financed from the following:

- (a) Five percent (5%) of the barangay's share from internal revenue allotment for two years from the approval of this Act as seed capital;
- (b) Grants and donations, whether locals or foreign, governmental or non-governmental;
- (c) Such other sources as are now provided by existing laws or as may be provided for and/or available in the future;

SEC. 8. ***Implementing Rules and Guidelines.*** - The 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, nongovernmental organizations, Barangay officials and the print and broadcast media.

SEC. 9. ***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. 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.