

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. **3144**

Introduced by Rep. Maria Carmen Zamora-Apsay

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree No. 1569 mandated the deployment of Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNSs) in every barangay of the country to monitor the nutritional status of children and link communities with nutrition and related service providers. The BNSs conduct home visits and household surveys regarding births, disabled persons, the elderly, newly built houses and transferees. They also perform various tasks at the barangay health center.

Borne out of volunteerism, the Barangay Nutrition Scholars are only provided a modest accident insurance coverage of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) each and a meager monthly traveling allowance. They also receive a small amount of incentive from the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) of the barangay and sometimes from the municipality and the province. Taken together, these limited financial rewards are not enough to fully compensate their noble work. It is heartwarming to note, however, that despite the inadequate honoraria and benefits given to them, the BNSs continue to provide service to the people because of love for their work.

This measure makes up for the financial remuneration inadequacy by providing the Barangay Nutrition Scholars coverage in the National Health Insurance Program under the Philhealth. At the very least, they and their dependents will be ensured of quality health care services that is affordable, acceptable, available and accessible.

Hence, the immediate and favorable passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MARIA CARMEN ZAMORA-APSAY

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House Bill No. **3144**

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**AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY COVERAGE OF ALL BARANGAY
NUTRITION SCHOLARS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM (NHIP) UNDER THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE
CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH)**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Objective.*—This Act seeks to provide for the mandatory coverage
2 of all Barangay Nutrition Scholars in the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP),
3 hereinafter referred to as the Program, under the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
4 (Philhealth).

5 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*—Section II, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution
6 declares that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health
7 development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social
8 services available to all the people at affordable cost. Priority for the needs of the
9 underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children shall be recognized.
10 Likewise, it shall be the policy of the State to provide free medical care to paupers.

11 SEC. 3. *Coverage.*—All duly-accredited Barangay Nutrition Scholars under
12 Presidential Decree 1569 shall be covered by the Program.

13 SEC. 4. *Enrollment.*—All Barangay Nutrition Scholars shall enroll in the Program
14 in order for them to be placed under coverage that entitles them to avail of the benefits
15 and financial assistance provided therein; *Provided*, That the beneficiaries under this Act
16 shall be issued appropriate documentation specifying eligibility to benefits and indicating
17 how benefit was obtained or is being maintained.

18 SEC. 5. *Contributions.*—The Department of Health shall pay the monthly
19 contribution of the barangay day care workers enrolled under the Program.

20 SEC. 6. *Appropriation.*—The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act
21 shall be appropriated from the national budget and shall be included in the annual
22 General Appropriations Act as part of the budget of the Department of Health.

1 SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*—All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, and
2 executive orders contrary or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
3 accordingly.

4 SEC 8. *Effectivity.*—This Act shall take effect upon its approval and completion
5 of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,