

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES  
House Bill No. 6833



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Introduced by: MA. THERESA B. BONOAN-DAVID  
4<sup>th</sup> District, City of Manila

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution provides, among others that "*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.*"

Drugstores are normally non-existent in barangays outside of the town proper and most of our people in the countryside are deprived of access even to basic drugs and medicines when they are in need.

This bill, by institutionalizing the Botica sa Barangay Program, 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 drugstores in every barangay so as to make available drugs and medicines for common illnesses such as fever, pain, cough/colds, and others, including vitamin and mineral preparations.

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

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

  
MA. THERESA BONOAN-DAVID  
4<sup>th</sup> District, City of Manila

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**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 House of Representatives in  
Congress of the Philippines assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** Definition of Terms. – This Act shall be known and cited as  
the ***"Botica sa Barangay Act"***.

**SECTION 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.

**SECTION 3. *Botica sa Barangay*** - The Department of Health (DOH)  
shall, within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act, undertake a  
three (3)-year program for the establishment of barangay drugstores or  
*Botica sa Barangay*, 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 socio-  
economic 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.

**SECTION 4.** Establishment Priority. - The Department of Health shall, in  
the establishment of the *Botica sa Barangay*, undertake prior  
consultations with the Municipal Development Council concerned:  
Provided, that in the establishment of the *Botica sa Barangay*, highest  
priority shall be given to those economically depressed barangays.

Existing *Botica sa Barangays* shall be maintained and shall be  
covered by relevant provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 5. Drugs Available.** - The *Botica sa Barangay* 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.

**SECTION 6. *Botica sa Barangay Aide.*** - Sale of medicines at the *Botica sa Barangay* 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 Department of Health.

**SECTION 7. *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 *Botica sa Barangay* through its personnel, non-governmental organizations, barangay official and the print and broadcast media.

**SECTION 8. *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.

**SECTION 9.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.