

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 590



Introduced by Representative JOSE CHRISTOPHER Y. BELMONTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The members of Barangay Public Safety Officers (BPSO) play an important role in our communities. They are the frontlines in anti-criminal activities particularly in places where police presence is rare or scarce. In some instances, services of the members of the BPSO have been tapped in disaster relief operations and other emergency situations.

On top of this, barangay tanods, despite their "thankless jobs", have been exposed to harm inherent in their jobs. We may recall a recent news report about a barangay tanod in the City of Manila who got killed while trying to avert a robbery.

Section 393, paragraph (d) of the Local Government Code provides that every barangay is entitled to have not more than twenty (20) barangay tanods or its equivalent to help in maintaining peace and order in the community. It also provides that they are entitled to insurance and other benefits which shall be chargeable to the barangay, or to the city or municipality where the barangay belongs. Despite this provision however, most members of barangay tanod brigades do not have insurance and does not enjoy benefits that they should be getting. It may be due to the lack of funds of the local government units concerned, a simple inadvertence, or worse, intentionally ignored because nobody is monitoring its implementation. Whatever the reason is, it is the barangay tanod who is being victimized.

Meanwhile, we are confronted to the limitation set by Section 393, paragraph (d) in the number of barangay tanods per barangay. In reality, this provision is not followed, especially in big barangays. Most often, barangays which have huge land area employ more than what the law provides to address their actual needs in maintaining peace and order. They call the additional personnel volunteers even though they perform similar functions as the regular BPSO members do. In doing so, the volunteers are not properly compensated if at all they are compensated and most of the time, they rely only on the savings that the barangay may generate.

It is in this light that this bill is being introduced to make the number of BPSO members in proportion to the number of residents in the barangay and to give them

life insurance and other benefits which they have long been deprived of. For this purpose, approval of this amendatory bill is earnestly sought.


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**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 393, PARAGRAPH (D) OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED
7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to maintain peace and
2 order in all localities within its territory and to provide auxiliary support to its
3 national police by establishing barangay public safety brigades or barangay tanods
4 in all barangays nationwide. It is likewise an established state policy that all peace
5 keeping officers, including barangay tanods, are provided adequate means for their
6 upkeep and protection.

7
8 SECTION 2. *Original Provision.* - Section 393, paragraph (d) provides, thus: "All duly
9 appointed members of the barangay tanod brigades, or their equivalent, which shall
10 number not more than twenty (20) in each barangay, shall be granted insurance or
11 other benefits during their incumbency, chargeable to the barangay or the city or
12 municipal government to which the barangay belongs.

13
14 SECTION 3. *Amendatory Clause.* - Section 393, paragraph (d) of Republic Act
15 Numbered 7160 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

16
17 "THERE SHALL BE APPOINTED BARANGAY PUBLIC
18 SAFETY OFFICERS (BPSO) IN EACH BARANGAY WHOSE NUMBER
19 SHALL BE COMPUTED IN A SCALE OF TEN (10) BPSO MEMBERS
20 PER ONE THOUSAND (1,000) RESIDENTS, BUT IN NO CASE
21 SHALL BE LESS THAN TWENTY (20) REGARDLESS OF THE
22 NUMBER OF RESIDENTS AND LAND AREA OF THE BARANGAY.
23 THE APPOINTED BPSO MEMBERS SHALL BE GRANTED A
24 MANDATORY LIFE INSURANCE AND OTHER BENEFITS

1 ENJOYED BY CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES DURING THEIR
2 INCUMBENCY, CHARGEABLE TO THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY
3 TO WHICH THEIR BARANGAY BELONGS."
4

5 **SECTION 4. *Amendment of Existing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within (6) months
6 following the approval of the President of this amendatory law, the Department of
7 the Interior and Local Government, Department of Budget and Management and the
8 Civil Service Commission shall accordingly amend, revise, repeal or modify existing
9 rules and regulations to conform to the amended provision.
10

11 **SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** - All Acts, Decrees, Executive Orders and Rules and
12 Regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
13 modified accordingly.
14

15 **SECTION 6. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
16 publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.
17

18 Approved.
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