



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2025

Introduced by **HON. ROMEO M. ACOP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the basic political organ in our system of government. It serves as the primary implementing unit for government policies, plans, programs and projects at the community level. The barangay also functions as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed and considered, and where disputes may be amicably resolved thereby de-clogging the judiciary of its overwhelming caseloads. As such, its importance in our political system and governance cannot be less stated.

Each barangay unit has a *Punong Barangay* acting as its Chief Executive, and members of the *Sangguniang Barangay* which functions as its legislative body. In representation of the youth, it has a *Sangguniang Kabataan* Chairperson who sits as member of the *Sangguniang Barangay*. It also has a Barangay Secretary and a Barangay Treasurer who are appointive administrative officials of the barangay. The barangay can also deputize *Barangay Tanods* tasked to maintain peace and order in the community in the exercise of its police power. For purposes of settling certain kinds of disputes involving its residents, the barangay has a conciliation panel called the *Lupong Tagapamayapa*. These barangay officials form the core of political governance at the grass-root level in the country.

Meanwhile, current emphasis on the welfare of the youth and on maternal care have necessitated the appointment of Barangay Day Care Workers and Barangay Health Workers to provide counselling and allied services to the barangay constituents.

In the stewardship of their respective barangays, these barangay officials have set aside their personal interests and endured hardships in the name of public service. But despite their sacrifices, the remuneration and benefits they receive pale in significance compared to the risks they take in the discharge of their responsibilities. This, notwithstanding the spiralling cost of living and its impact on their economic conditions.

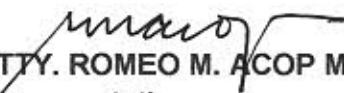
This bill aims to provide additional benefits to barangay officials to encourage them to perform better and with greater dedication and patriotism. The grant will also serve as an official recognition of their valuable contribution to our nation-building.

In particular, this measure seeks to :

- 1) Increase from five thousand (P 5,000) to seven thousand pesos (P 7,000) the amount of medical expenses that an entitled barangay official may incur and reimburse, chargeable against the funds of the barangay, when seeking medical assistance in private hospitals and institutions in emergency cases where there is no available government hospital;
- 2) Include *Barangay Tanods* as among those entitled to free medical care in any government hospital and institution; and,
- 3) Grant barangay officials, including Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Day Care Workers, who have reached the age of sixty (60) years and with a minimum record of nine (9) years in service at the time of retirement, a lump sum retirement pay equivalent to one (1) year honorarium but which shall not exceed One Hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000).

The proposed lump sum retirement pay has been the subject of a bill filed by this representation during the 15th Congress which was passed by the House of Representatives on Third Reading and transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence. However, due to lack of material time, the measure was not enacted into law.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this proposed measure is earnestly urged.


ATTY. ROMEO M. ACOP MNSA
Representative
2nd District, Antipolo City



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AN ACT
INCREASING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991'

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

SECTION 1. Section 393 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the 'Local Government Code of 1991', is hereby amended to read as follows :

SECTION 393. *Benefits of Barangay Officials* –

- a) Barangay officials, including barangay tanods and, members of the *lupong tagapamayapa*, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal or city ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Code, but in no case shall it be less than One thousand pesos (P 1,000.00) per month for the Punong Barangay and Six hundred pesos (P 600.00) for the Sangguniang Barangay members, Barangay Treasurer, and Barangay Secretary : *Provided, however,* that the annual appropriations for personal

services shall be subject to the budgetary limitations prescribed under Title Five, Book II of this Code.

- b) The Punong Barangay, the Sangguniang Barangay members, the Barangay Treasurer, and the Barangay Secretary shall also :

1) xxxx

2) xxxx

- 3) Be entitled to free medical care including subsistence, medicines and medical attendance in any government hospital and institution: *Provided*, that such hospital care shall include surgery or surgical expenses, medicines, x-rays, laboratory fees, and other hospital expenses. **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT BARANGAY TANODS SHALL ALSO BE ENTITLED TO THE BENEFIT GRANTED UNDER THIS SUB-SECTION.**

In case of [extreme urgency] **EMERGENCY**, where there is no available government hospital or institution, the barangay official concerned may submit himself for immediate medical assistance to the nearest private clinic, hospital or institution and the expenses not exceeding [Five thousand pesos (P 5,000.00)] **SEVEN THOUSAND PESOS (P 7,000.00)** that may be incurred therein shall be chargeable against the funds of the barangay concerned.

- 4) **BE ENTITLED TO A LUMP SUM RETIREMENT PAY EQUIVALENT TO ONE (1) YEAR HONORARIUM, BUT IN NO CASE SHALL EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P 100,000.00) TO BE TAKEN FROM THE BARANGAY RETIREMENT FUND: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT A RETIREE IS AT LEAST SIXTY (60) YEARS OF AGE WITH A MINIMUM OF NINE (9) YEARS IN SERVICE AT THE TIME OF RETIREMENT.**

AS USED IN THIS SUB-SECTION, THE TERM 'RETIREE' SHALL INCLUDE ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS.

[4] (5) xxx

[5] (6) xxx

(c) xxx

(d) xxx

SECTION 2. *Barangay Retirement Fund* - There is hereby created a Barangay Retirement Fund (BRF) which shall be used to fund the retirement of barangay officials provided in this Act. The amount equivalent to one percent (1%) of the share of the

national government under Section 284 of Republic Act No. 7160, as amended, shall be used for this purpose.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall administer and ensure the appropriate disbursement of the Fund.

SECTION 3. *Rules and Regulations* - The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in coordination with the DILG, shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.