

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3123**



Introduced by: **REP. ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Local Government Code devolved the delivery of health care services to the local government units (LGU), aiming for self reliant LGUs which would deliver more direct and immediate health care services to the people. In the devolved set up, local government units are tasked to deliver primary and secondary health care services. And at the forefront of primary health care delivery are the barangay health workers or BHWs.

At the grassroots where medical practitioners are far in between, BHWs are tasked with information dissemination on child and maternal health care programs and provision of initial response to health risks. It is thus safe to say that our government's primary responder to any health problem and primary advocate of health prevention is the barangay health worker. They surge into the farthest areas to perform their duties, heedless of the perils along the way. As front-liners, BHWs are entrusted with primary health care delivery but the benefits and incentives they receive are not commensurate with the heavy responsibilities they bear.

Republic Act 7883 or the Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995 allowed for the institutionalization of remunerations for our BHWs but the law has to be updated to be in step with present realities. Apart from the hazard and subsistence allowances enshrined in RA 7883, our BHWs nationwide receive somewhere between P100 to P2,000 monthly honorarium depending on the discretion of the local leaders. Although BHWs are categorized as volunteers, such irregular and measly amount does not give them the dignity and recognition they deserve for the valuable work they do. Having to depend on the whims of the local leaders for the amount of their honorarium further demoralize the BHWs as they are often at the mercy of politicians and are often caught in political clashes.

This bill aims to rectify such gaps by providing for a fixed monthly honorarium for all accredited BHWs. This bill also seeks to expand the benefits and incentives under RA 7883 by adding provisions for cash gift, separation pay, and disability benefit.

In support of around 220,000 accredited barangay health workers in the country, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO
Representative
Second District, Marikina City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3123

Introduced by: **REP. ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**

**AN ACT GRANTING A FIXED MONTHLY HONORARIA AND ADDITIONAL
BENEFITS TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7883 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS' BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF
1995**

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

SECTION 1. Section 6 of Republic Act 7883 otherwise known as the "Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995" is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6. Incentives and Benefits. – In recognition of their service, all accredited barangay health workers who are actively and regularly performing their duties shall be entitled to the following incentives and benefits:

- a) HONORARIA – ALL ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A FIXED MONTHLY HONORARIA OF FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P4,000.00).
- b) CASH GIFT – ALL ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS SHALL RECEIVE A CASH GIFT OF TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) TO BE GIVEN EVERY DECEMBER.
- c) SEPARATION PAY – ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS WHO HAVE SERVED FOR TEN (10) YEARS AND ABOVE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) FOR EVERY YEAR OF SERVICE.
- d) DISABILITY BENEFIT – ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS WHO SUSTAIN INJURY OR SICKNESS ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) FOR EVERY YEAR OF SERVICE.
- e) Hazard Allowance – xxxx

SECTION 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Health, in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, and other concerned government agencies, shall formulate, within one hundred eighty days (180) from its effectivity, the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 3. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause -- All laws, issuances or any part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,