

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3684



Introduced by Hon. Jerry P. Treñas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

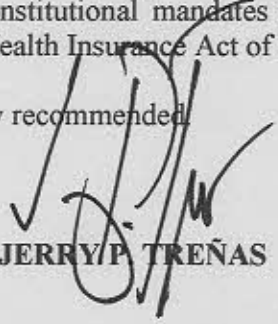
Healthcare in the Philippines is very expensive, especially for our citizens who do not enjoy the benefits of a high salary. Hence, the State has long endeavored to provide universal healthcare to all of its citizens.

Our barangay officials and employees are public servants who perform functions which are as important as that of the national and local officials of our great Republic. Unfortunately, they only receive a monthly honoraria, which is a pittance compared to the salaries of their counterparts in both the public and private spheres. With the small amount of pay that they receive for their dedicated and inspired service to their communities, our barangay officials and employees could not afford to enroll themselves in the National Health Insurance Program of the country under the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth). Compounded by the exorbitant increase in the Philhealth premiums, our public servants working at the grassroots level could not afford to pay the monthly contributions of Philhealth, depriving themselves of the universal healthcare touted by the government.

It is therefore necessary for all barangay officials and employees to enjoy the benefits of Philhealth, and for the national government to pay for their premiums given their meager compensation.

The Constitution provides that it is a State policy to protect and promote the right to health of all of our citizens.¹ Moreover, it states 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 everyone at affordable cost.² These Constitutional mandates are also reflected in the declaration of principles and policies of the National Health Insurance Act of 1995.³

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is highly recommended.


JERRY P. TREÑAS

¹ Section 15, Article II. The 1987 Philippine Constitution.

² Section 11, Article XIII. The 1987 Philippine Constitution.

³ Section 2, Republic Act No. 7875

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AN ACT PROVIDING MANDATORY PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH) BENEFITS TO ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines duly assembled:

Section 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of its barangay officials and employees. In pursuit thereof, the State shall provide complete Philhealth benefits to all of the incumbent barangay officials and employees.

Section 2. Coverage. - The Punong Barangay, Barangay Kagawads, Barangay Tanods, Barangay Secretary and Barangay Treasurer of all barangays of the Republic of the Philippines shall be covered by this Act.

Section 3. Philhealth Benefits. - All barangay officials and employees stated in the previous section shall enjoy complete Philhealth coverage under the National Health Insurance Act of 1995. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in consultation and coordination with Philhealth and the league representing barangay officials, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act which shall cover the rate of premiums to be paid exclusively by the national government.

Section 4. Appropriation. - The national government of the Republic of the Philippines shall appropriate annually and include in the General Appropriations Act the total annual premiums based on the actual number of barangay officials and employees covered under section two hereof, as certified by the DILG, and in accordance with the rules and regulations to be formulated to implement this Act as provided by the previous section. The entire appropriation for the payments of the foregoing total annual premiums shall be released annually to Philhealth.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. - All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue

32 to be in full force and effect.

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34 **Section 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
35 the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

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37 *Approved*