

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Sixteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4835



Introduced by Honorable Joaquin M. Chipeco, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Much has been said about barangay officials being at the frontline of government services. During the series of calamities, both natural and man-made, which recently buffeted the country (Bohol earthquake, Leyte's super typhoon devastation and the Zamboanga siege), our barangay leaders have been hailed as the "first responders" in the chaotic aftermath when the national government and civic organizations could not seem to get their act together. In the remote communities of our country, the national government is well-nigh invisible and the only acquaintance about governance that our people have is their own village leaders.

And yet, in spite of their services to the general public, it is sad, almost shocking, to learn that our barangay officials are not compulsorily covered by the GSIS law solely because they do not have "fixed monthly compensation." As such, they could not avail of the several important benefits that GSIS members are entitled to.

It is to be noted that the compulsory coverage of our barangay officials under the GSIS is not a mere grant, a bonus, or a free ride to these officials. They will still be required to remit their personal contributions to enjoy the benefits of our government insurance system. However, the counterpart government contributions to finance this initiative may be huge considering the total number of barangay officials nationwide.

The substantial budgetary requirements for their compulsory coverage notwithstanding, it is believed that it is an act of justice to accord equal treatment to our barangay leaders as that we accord to other

public servants. They deserve our respect as well as our support inasmuch as the barangay is the basic political unit of government in our country.

In view of all the foregoing considerations, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



JOAQUIN M. CHIPECO, JR.
Representative
Second District of Laguna

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AN ACT
FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1146, AS
AMENDED, EXPANDING AND INCREASING THE COVERAGE
AND BENEFITS OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE
INSURANCE SYSTEM TO INCLUDE ELECTED AND
APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 (i) of Presidential Decree No. 1146, as amended, otherwise known as the “Revised Government Service Insurance Act of 1977”, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“(i) Compensation – The basic pay or salary received by an employee, pursuant to his election/appointment, excluding per diems, bonuses, overtime pay, honoraria, allowances and any other emoluments received in addition to the basic pay which are not integrated into the basic pay under existing laws. PROVIDED, THAT IN THE CASE OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS, THEIR COMPENSATION, FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPUTING THEIR CONTRIBUTION AND FOR SUCH OTHER PURPOSES PURSUANT TO THIS ACT, SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE AGGREGATE

AMOUNT OF THE HONORARIA, ALLOWANCES AND SUCH OTHER EMOLUMENTS AS MAY BE AUTHORIZED BY LAW OR BARANGAY, MUNICIPAL OR CITY ORDINANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991.”

SEC. 2. Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 1146, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“B. MEMBERSHIP IN THE GSIS

SECTION 3. Compulsory Membership. – Membership in the GSIS shall be compulsory for all employees receiving compensation who have not reached the compulsory retirement age, irrespective of employment status, INCLUDING ELECTED AND APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS BUT EXCLUDING [except] members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, subject to the condition that they must settle first their financial obligation with the GSIS, and contractuels who have no employer and employee relationship with the agencies they serve.”

Except for the members of the judiciary and constitutional commissions who shall have life insurance only, all members of the GSIS shall have life insurance, retirement, and all other social security protection such as disability, survivorship, separation, and unemployment benefits.”

SEC. 3. The GSIS, in consultation and coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the league representing barangay captains and officials, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. The rules and regulations shall cover the rate of premiums and the manner of its payment, the extent of insurance coverage, the contributions to be collected from barangay officials concerned and the possible contributions of provinces, cities and municipalities thereto.

SEC. 4. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,