

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 8033



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. GARY C. ALEJANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

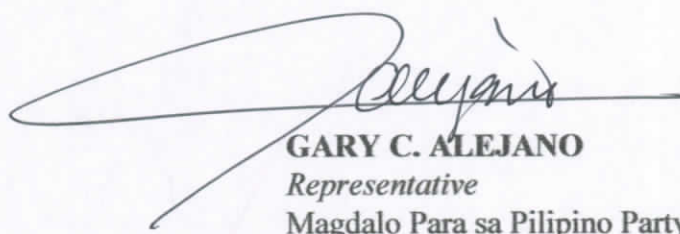
Under R.A. 7883, otherwise known as “The Barangay Health Workers’ Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995, Barangay Health Workers are treated as nothing more than a bunch of “volunteers.” This despite the fact that LGUs are heavily reliant on Barangay Health Workers to provide primary health care services.

Amid the steadily rising population, Barangay Health Workers have become critical in the delivery and promotion of basic healthcare services in many local communities. However, despite the vital role they play, compensation rates for them vary between every LGU, as well as the benefits provided for these workers. The allowance ranging from P500.00 to P6,000.00 is more likely to be their only source of living, without fixed income, benefits, and incentives. This is grossly insufficient to sustain themselves, let alone their families. The service that the Barangay Health Workers render is not commensurate to the compensation that the government provides; no wonder there is an increasing dearth in Barangay Health Workers.

Barangay Health Workers are also without security of tenure. They are constantly at the mercy of local government officials, who in any moment these health workers show any adverse political leanings, can terminate them at whim. The present set-up politicizes the position.

As such, this bill aims to amend the existing law to give way for the recognition and improvement of Barangay Health Workers.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


GARY C. ALEJANO
Representative
Magdalo Para sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
TO IMPROVE AND TO PROMOTE QUALITY DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN BARANGAYS, ENACTING THE
“BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND SERVICES REFORM ACT OF 2018”

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

1 **SEC. 1. Short Title.-** This Act shall be known as the “Barangay Health Workers and
2 Services Reform Act of 2018.”
3

4 **SEC.2. Statement of Policy.-** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a
5 just and dynamic social order that will ensure prosperity and independence of the nation and free
6 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
7 employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. The State
8 recognizes that quality health care services promote social justice in all phases of national
9 development.
10

11 The State further protects and promotes the right to health of the people and provides
12 conditions of health empowerment, where each individual has access to information and services
13 that will bring about health and well-being. Primary Health care is recognized as the major
14 strategy towards health empowerment, emphasizing the need to provide accessible, available and
15 affordable quality health services through community based participatory strategies.
16

17 To this end, the government and all its instrumentalities recognize the economic and
18 social rights of barangay health workers to just compensation, consistent with the principle of
19 equal pay for equal work and work of equal value.
20

21 **SEC.3. Definition of terms.-**
22

- 23 a) Barangay Health Workers (BHW), is a support health workers in the barangay unit,
24 as defined and covered by republic Act (RA) 7305;
25 b) Magna Carta for Public Health Workers, as used in this Act, shall refer to RA 7305;
26 c) Primary Health Care (PHC), is essential health care made universally accessible to
27 individuals and families in the community and country can afford to maintain at every
28 stage of their development in the spirit of self-reliance and self-determination. It
29 forms an integral part both of the country’s health system, of which is the central
30 function and main focus, and of the overall social and economic development of the
31 community, characterized by partnership and empowerment of the people by means
32 acceptable to them. It is the first level of contact of individuals, the family and
33 community with the national health system bringing health care as close as possible
34 to where people live and work, and constitutes the first element of a continuing health
35 care as close as possible to where people live and work.

- 1 d) Public Health Worker (PHW), as used in this Act, shall mean all persons who are
2 engaged in health and health-related work. All persons employed in all hospitals,
3 sanitaria, health infirmaries, health centers, rural health units, barangay health
4 stations, clinics and other health-related establishments owned and operated by the
5 Government or its political subdivision with original charters and shall include
6 medical, allied health professional, administrative and support personnel employed
7 regardless of their employment status, as pursuant to Section 3 of the Magna Carta of
8 Public Health Workers.
9

10 **SEC.4. Barangay Health Center (BHC).**- There shall be one Barangay Health Center in
11 every barangay unit, with the following basic and essential facilities and provisions:
12

- 13 a) Adequate lighting and ventilation;
14 b) Adequate supply of portable water and electricity;
15 c) Floor Area of at least twenty (20) square meters;
16 d) Equipment including, but not limited to, blood pressure apparatus, dressing kit, over
17 the counter medicines, weighing scale for infants and adults, thermometers, standard
18 operating procedure manual from the Department of Health (DOH), glucometer, and
19 delivery kit;
20 e) Examining Area which must be enclosed, with bed, cabinet, foot stool and stool;
21 f) Toilet with sink and running water; and;
22 g) Consultation Area with table, cabinet and two chairs.
23

24 **SEC.5. Functions of the Barangay Health Center.**- Each BHC shall have the following
25 functions:
26

- 27 a) Delivers basic and primary care services for the community (e.g. immunization,
28 prenatal, check-up, check-up of well and ill infants etc.);
29 b) Coordinates efforts and actions of the different members of health team;
30 c) Keeps records of health indices, community profile, and other data;
31 d) Serves as an area of congregation for meetings of the health team;
32 e) Assists and coordinates with the respective Local Government Units (LGUs) and
33 appropriate offices on first aid and procedures in disaster risk reduction.
34

35 **SEC.6. Barangay Health Workers to Man Botika sa Barangay.** – When available and
36 offered in the community especially in far-flung areas, the Barangay Health Workers shall man
37 and operate “ Botika sa Barangay” project or service. They shall likewise be given appropriate
38 trainings by the Department of Health and Food and Drug Administration in full consultation
39 with the relevant professional organizations and associations.
40

41 **SEC.7. Referral System.**- The BHC shall observe and follow the referral system
42 framework of Primary Health Care.
43

44 **SEC.8. Barangay Health Team Placement.**- The BHC shall be composed of Nurses,
45 Midwife, and BHW. The operation and functioning of the BHC shall be headed and supervised
46 by a Nurse.
47

48 Each BHC shall be manned by a health team proportionate with the existing population in
49 the Barangay:
50

- 51 a) Nurse – There shall be at least one nurse for every barangay with a population not
52 exceeding five thousand (5,000);
53 b) Midwife – There shall be at least one midwife for every barangay with a population
54 note exceeding two thousand five hundred (2,500);
55 c) BHW – There shall be at least one BHW for every barangay with a population not
56 exceeding five hundred (500)
57

1 **SEC.9. BHW Qualifications.-** (a) Any person who has completed the Technical
2 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), BHW program or undergone training
3 specific for BHW by TESDA – accredited institution: *Provided*, that he or she has passed the
4 training assessment and obtained the equivalent national certification.

5
6 (b) All BHW, regardless of accreditation or registration status, who have served for at
7 least two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act must undergo BHW assessment by TESDA –
8 accredited assessors and pass the equivalent national certification. Only those who have obtained
9 the equivalent national certification shall be eligible for employment.

10
11 **SEC.10. BHW: Hiring.-** (a) The Local Government Selection and Promotion Board
12 shall process the hiring of the Barangay Health Team personnel, pursuant to existing Civil
13 Service rules, regulations, issuances and orders on placement and hiring.

14
15 (b) All existing BHWs who has met the qualifications under Section 9 (a) sub-paragraph
16 (b) of this Act shall be given preference in hiring and priority in placement.

17
18 **SEC.11. BHW: Duties and Responsibilities.-**

- 19
20 a) The BHW performs the following duties and responsibilities independently:
- 21 1. Height and weight monitoring, and reporting the same to the BHC;
 - 22 2. Monitoring and follow-up defaulters, and reporting the same to the BHC;
 - 23 3. Reporting to the BHC any incidence of disease or any health cases in the
 - 24 community;
 - 25 4. Communicating and coordinating with the community to participate in the BHC
 - 26 activities;
 - 27 5. Gathering data about the health of the community, filing, encoding, and reporting
 - 28 the same to the BHC;
 - 29 6. Administering first aid;
 - 30 7. Conducting health visits; and
 - 31 8. Responding in natural calamities and disasters.
- 32
33 b) The BHW performs the following duties and responsibilities assistive to the Barangay
34 Health Team:
- 35 1. Sputum collection;
 - 36 2. Identifying people with disease and sickness;
 - 37 3. Health community profiling;
 - 38 4. Psychosocial debriefing for stress and post-calamity initiatives; and
 - 39 5. Strengthening the health programs of the government.
- 40
41

42 **SEC. 12. BHW: Compensation.-** The entry pay level of a BHW shall be the prevailing
43 rate equivalent to Salary Grade One “SG 1”

44
45 **SEC.13. BHW: Incentives and Benefits.-** A BHW shall be entitled to the same
46 incentives and benefits provided under the Magna Carta for Public Health workers. Further, they
47 shall be covered by the existing statutory benefits such as GSIS, Philhealth, and Pag-ibig.
48 *Provided*, that in addition, they shall be given burial and disability assistance in case of death or
49 if the BHW is afflicted by illness which results to disability especially if it occurs in the duration
50 of his service. *Provided*, further, that a regular adjustment in monetary and other non-monetary
51 incentives shall be made to help improve the living condition of Barangay Health Workers.

52
53 **SEC.14. Penal Provision.-** Any person who violates the provisions of this Act shall be
54 criminally, civilly, and administratively liable.

55
56 **SEC.15.Implementing Agencies.-** Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act,
57 the TESDA and DOH, with the participation of various health union representatives shall

1 formulate, finalize and launch the BHW training program, assessment, and national certification
2 program.

3
4 The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), LGUs, and other appropriate
5 government agencies, with the participation of various health union representatives, shall
6 formulate and provide effective mechanism for the selection and hiring of BHWs.

7
8 The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), LGUs, and other appropriate
9 government agencies, shall allocate necessary funds for compensation of the barangay health
10 team.

11
12 **SEC.16. Transitory Provision.-** Within one (1) year from effectivity of this act, the
13 TESDA, DOH, DILG, and other concerned LGUs, shall allocate funds from their annual
14 appropriations to immediately implement Section 8- subparagraph (b) and section 9 of this Act.

15
16 **SEC.17. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the
17 effectivity of this Act, the TESDA, DOH, DILG, LGUs, in coordination and participation of
18 various health union representatives, shall provide the Implementing Rules and Regulations
19 necessary to carry out the provision of this Act.

20
21 The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or in
22 a newspaper of general circulation.

23
24 **SEC.18. Separability Clause.-** Should any provision of this Act be declared
25 unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and operational.

26
27 **SEC.19. Repealing Clause.-** Republic Act No. 7883. Otherwise known as the “Barngay
28 Health Workers Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995”, is hereby repealed. All other laws,
29 decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are
30 inconsistent with this act hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

31
32 **SEC. 20. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its
33 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,