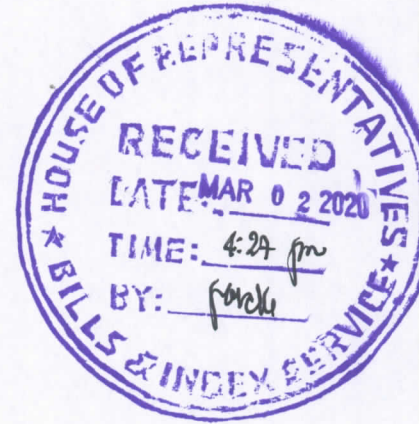




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6427

Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create the Magna Carta of Barangay Nutrition Scholars. The government and private sectors, in their intent to provide basic health and nutrition services in all levels, have joined hands to solve the malnutrition problems of the country with the entire efforts being coordinated by the National Nutrition Council.

Realizing that the magnitude of the malnutrition problem in the country urgently needs greater involvement and participation of the people at the grassroots level, the Barangay Nutrition Scholars Program (BNSP) was created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 1569, entitled, *"Strengthening the Barangay Nutrition Program by Providing for a Barangay Nutrition Scholar in Every Barangay, Providing Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes."* The barangay nutrition scholar is responsible for delivering basic nutrition and related health services particularly in far-flung barangays where health services and awareness in the importance of good nutrition is not readily available.

Since the creation of the BNSP, there has been a significant improvement in the community awareness of the link between health and nutrition. This accounts for the reduction of malnutrition in our country. This achievement is particularly attributable to our hardworking barangay nutrition scholars who are at the forefront of the fight against malnutrition and lack of health education, traversing inaccessible roads and braving perilous sea routes, to get to the remote barangays and perform their duties.

During the Sixteenth Congress, a bill was filed by former Rep. Giorgidi B. Aggabao of the Fourth Legislative District of Isabela, which sought to create the "*Magna Carta of Barangay Nutrition Scholars*." A similar bill has also been filed twice during the Seventeenth Congress.

It is high time that we recognize the invaluable role of our barangay nutrition scholars by providing them with sufficient allowances, benefits, incentives, and security of tenure, commensurate to their hardwork.

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



SHARON S. GARIN
AAMBIS-OWA PARTY-LIST



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HOUSE BILL NO. 6427

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1 **AN ACT**
2 **CREATING THE MAGNA CARTA OF BARANGAY NUTRITION**
3 **SCHOLARS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of the*
6 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
7

8 SECTION 1. ***Short Title.***—This Act shall be known as the “*Magna Carta of*
9 *Barangay Nutrition Scholars.*”

10 SEC. 2. ***Declaration of Policy.***—The State adopts the Barangay Nutrition
11 Scholar Program as a human resource development strategy of the Philippine Plan
12 of Action for Nutrition, which involves the training, deployment and supervision of
13 barangay nutrition scholars (BNS) as originally mandated under Presidential
14 Decree No. 1569, entitled, “*Strengthening the Barangay Nutrition Program by*

1 *Providing for a Barangay Nutrition Scholar in Every Barangay, Providing Funds*
2 *Therefor, and for Other Purposes.*” Towards this end, the State shall provide
3 additional incentives, benefits and other forms of assistance to encourage more
4 qualified and trained individuals to join the ranks of barangay nutrition scholars.

5 SEC. 3. ***Qualifications.***— For purposes of this Act, a “*barangay nutrition*
6 *scholar*” (BNS) refers to a trained community worker who links the community
7 with service providers, and with the following qualifications:

- 8 1. Bonafide resident of the barangay for at least one (1) year, with ability
9 to speak the dialect;
- 10 2. Possesses leadership potentials, initiative, willingness to serve the
11 barangay for at least one (1) year, and readiness to learn and teach what has
12 been learned to the barangay people;
- 13 3. At least a high school graduate;
- 14 4. Physically and mentally fit; and
- 15 5. At least eighteen (18) years old but not more than sixty (60) years old.

16 SEC. 4. ***Discrimination.***— The BNS shall not in any way be
17 discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, and political affiliation.

18 SEC. 5. ***Barangay Nutrition Committee.***— The BNS shall assist the
19 barangay captain in organizing or reactivating the barangay nutrition committee
20 and the barangay network in training *purok* leaders to assist the BNS.

1 The BNS shall also organize the community into networks of twenty to
2 twenty-five households, or into community-based organizations working for the
3 improvement of their nutrition situation.

4 SEC. 6. ***Community Weight Survey.*** –The BNS shall identify and locate
5 underweight children through a community survey. This survey involves the
6 weighing of all pre-schoolers and interviewing mothers to determine how the child
7 is cared for and the resources available in the family for their participation in
8 nutrition and related interventions.

9 Based on the results of the annual weighing, the BNS shall, on a monthly
10 interval, weigh all underweight and severely underweight pre-schoolers, all zero to
11 twenty-four month old children, and conduct a quarterly follow-up weighing of
12 twenty-five to seventy-one month old children.

13 The regular weighing provides the basis for corrective actions which may
14 include implementation of nutrition programs or referral to the appropriate service.

15 If there are other barangay-based development workers who can deliver
16 nutrition services to the community, the BNS may serve as a linkage-builder. The
17 BNS shall ensure that members of the community, especially those with
18 underweight children, are able to avail themselves of nutrition and related services.
19 The BNS must at all times be aware of the services available, be able to identify
20 those who need these services, and establish a system of linking nutrition and those
21 services.

1 SEC. 7. ***Records and Work Plans.*** –To help other barangay workers and the
2 local officials, the BNS shall keep a record of the results of the regular weighing,
3 and the nutrition and health profile of families in the barangay.

4 The BNS shall also formulate a BNS action plan as a guide in managing the
5 different assigned tasks.

6 The BNS shall also facilitate the formulation, implementation, monitoring,
7 evaluation, and coordination of the barangay plan of action for nutrition.

8 SEC. 8. ***Basic Training Program.*** – The BNS shall undergo a ten-day
9 training on identifying, monitoring, and referring the malnourished to appropriate
10 service providers.

11 Aside from the ten-day training, the BNS shall also undergo a twenty-day
12 practicum to learn the proper weighing technique of pre-schoolers and conducting
13 interviews of mothers on child-rearing matters. During this phase, the BNS shall
14 collect and analyze data on the barangay nutrition situation using the family and
15 barangay profile forms, and come up with the appropriate action plan.

16 The BNS trainer-supervisor or the district nutrition program coordinator
17 (DNPC) and the city nutrition program coordinator (CNPC) shall organize,
18 conduct, and supervise the training. In the absence of the DNPC or the CNPC, the
19 nutrition action officer (NAO) shall assume these responsibilities.

20 SEC. 9. ***Other Forms of Assistance.*** – In assisting in the delivery of
21 nutrition and related services, the BNS shall perform the following functions:

- a. Organize the mothers to form a class;
- b. Conduct community nutrition education;
- c. Visit homes to provide nutrition counselling services especially on exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding;
- d. Manage community-based feeding programs;
- e. Distribute seeds, seedlings and small animals from the local agriculture office and other government organizations to promote home or community food gardens; and
- f. Inform the community of scheduled immunization and other health activities in coordination with the local midwife, agriculture officer, social welfare officer, and other government workers.

SEC. 10. ***Continuing Education and Training.*** – The National Nutrition Council shall provide continuing education through trainings, conduct regular evaluation of the system, and provide technical assistance to the BNS federation to ensure their functionality.

To reinforce skills during the formal training, the BNS shall attend monthly trainings conducted by the DNPC, the CNPC, or the NAO. Regular visits and monitoring may also be conducted by the DNPC, the CNPC, or the NAO to ensure continuous learning.

SEC. 11. ***Incentives and Benefits.***– The BNS shall enjoy the following incentives and benefits:

1 a. A civil service eligibility equivalent to second grade after the
2 completion of at least two (2) years of continuous and satisfactory service in
3 the barangay. The BNS may avail of this second grade civil service
4 eligibility by filing the proper application with the regional office of the Civil
5 Service Commission;

6 b. A monthly cash allowance of at least Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00),
7 annual allowance for uniform or clothing in the amount of Two thousand
8 pesos (P2,000.00), annual allowance for training stipend, kit, and travel of at
9 least One thousand pesos (P 1,000.00);

10 c. Similar benefits accorded to regular government employees such as
11 PhilHealth, Pag-ibig and benefits under the indigent program of the local
12 government unit;

13 d. A monthly hazard pay of at least Five hundred pesos (P500.00); and

14 e. An opportunity to avail of a scholarship grant in any institution
15 offering a two-year course formulated by the National Nutrition Council in
16 coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the
17 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

18 A BNS aged fifty (50) years old and above, has the option to assign
19 the scholarship grant to any offspring.

20 SEC. 12. ***Security of Tenure.*** – After undergoing the basic training program
21 provided in Section 8 of this Act, the BNS shall serve for at least three (3) years. A

1 yearly evaluation must be conducted and a satisfactory rating for two (2)
2 consecutive years is necessary before a BNS may be given a permanent position.

3 The BNS must be a member of the BNS federation that is duly registered
4 with the government and thereby accredited by the National Nutrition Council.

5 SEC. 13.**Conduct.**— While in the service, a BNS must at all times maintain
6 good moral conduct, be free from political activities, and must not be involved in
7 any criminal or administrative case. The BNS has the right to organize but shall
8 maintain political neutrality at all times. Any violation under this section may be a
9 ground for dismissal.

10 SEC. 14.**Working Hours.**— The BNS shall render at least eight (8) hours of
11 work a day from Mondays to Fridays, and remain on-call during Saturdays and
12 Sundays.

13 SEC. 15. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** —Within one hundred
14 eighty (180) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall, in
15 cooperation with the National Nutrition Council and the national federation of
16 barangay Nutrition Scholars, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the
17 effective implementation of this Act.

18 SEC. 16. **Appropriation.**— The amount necessary for the initial
19 implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current year's appropriation of
20 the Department of Health. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the

1 effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
2 Appropriation Act.

3 SEC. 17. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
4 invalid, the remainder of the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force
5 and effect.

6 SEC. 18. ***Repealing Clause.***– All laws, decrees, executive orders, and other
7 presidential issuances which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
8 amended or modified accordingly.

9 SEC. 19. ***Effectivity.***– This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its
10 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

11 *Approved,*