

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7375



Introduced by Representative JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA

AN ACT
PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING
BARANGAY TANODS AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA
AND BARANGAY EMPLOYEES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

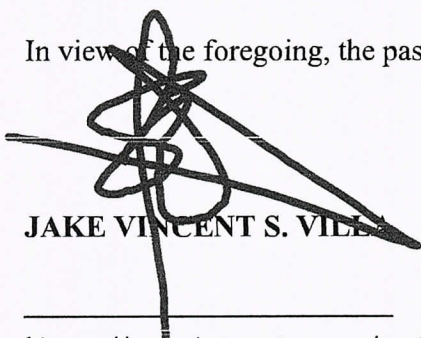
This measure seeks to institutionalize and provide incentives to Barangay Officials, including Barangay Tanods and Members of Lupong Tagapamayapa and Barangay employees.

Barangay is a type of early Filipino settlement and the word is derived from balangay, the name for the sailboats that originally brought settlers of Malay stock to the Philippines from Borneo. Each boat carried a large family group, and the master of the boat retained power as leader, or datu, of the village established by his family.¹

There is no doubt that barangay officials and barangay employees are at the lower end if not in the lowest end in terms of government employment benefits and privileges. Taking this into consideration, it is sad to note that said barangay officials and employees are considered frontliners in giving basic services to its community.

The proposed measure seeks to give due recognition to the importance of the role of barangay officials and its employees which frequently addresses the immediate needs of the community.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



JAKE VINCENT S. VILLA

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/barangay>.

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “Barangay Workers Incentives Act”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to promote and enhance the efficiency and responsiveness of barangay officials and employees, the government workers who make democracy work at the grassroots level in the smallest territorial and political subdivision of the government which is the barangay. To achieve this objective, the State shall adopt measures and provide such incentives not only to help ensure the faithful performance of the duties and functions of barangay officials and employees but also to raise quality of life.

SECTION 3. *GSIS Benefit Coverage.* – All barangay officials and barangay employees shall be considered members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and shall be covered with life insurance and social security protection, including retirement, disability, separation and unemployment benefits and such other benefits as may extended by the GSIS, subject to limitations provided by law.

The GSIS shall make special provisions in order to facilitate the inclusion of barangay officials and barangay employees, in the benefit coverage of GSIS.

SECTION 4. *Health Benefits.* – Government medical and health insurance programs under existing laws shall include in their coverage free basic health services and medicine to barangay officials and barangay employees.

SECTION 5. *Legal Representation.* – Barangay officials and barangay employees who may be involved as party litigants in administration or criminal cases filed in connection with the performance of their official duties shall, as a member of right, be entitled, to the free legal

services of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) who shall facilitate the legal services of the such officials and employees by a counsel.

Such benefit of legal representation shall include an exemption from payment of docket and other lawful fees, and of transcripts of stenographic notes which the court may order to be furnished the barangay officials and barangay employees.

SECTION 6. *Implementation Rules and Regulations.* – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government, in coordination and consultation with the Department of Justice, the Department of Health, the Government Service Insurance System and other agencies concerned, shall promulgate such rules or guidelines as may necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All law, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portion thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.