

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9299



INTRODUCED BY REP. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES, ASSIGNING AT
LEAST ONE REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY UNSERVED OR
UNDERSERVED BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The case for investing in healthcare, especially in the local level, has never been clearer in this time of a pandemic. The nursing profession in the Philippines has become the frontliner in the fight against the Covid-19 virus.

Although the Philippines has been a large-scale producer of nurses for domestic and international deployment, Filipino nursing graduates have been finding difficulties in finding local and overseas employment. What is ironic however is that, despite the availability of nursing manpower, many rural and peri-urban areas in the country remain unserved or underserved with the absence of health workers, resulting in weak health system.

With the country already having a surplus of trained nurses and limited employment opportunities locally and a competitive job market abroad, the number of unemployed nurses has been increasing over the years.

However, rather than treating these vast resources of trained Filipino nurses as challenging, our government should utilize these human resources to address

and improve the delivery of health services in the country, particularly in far-flung barangays normally not catered by the conventional government health centers. The government may engage the services of the nurses to be at the forefront of the government health care programs.

This bill proposes that the government employ these unemployed or underemployed nurses and deploy them to every barangay in the Philippines that is unserved or underserved by health services.

Each deployed nurse shall render information dissemination on disease prevention, basic maternal and obstetric care, pre-natal and post-natal care, teenage pregnancy counselling, family planning and reproductive health education, nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention, registration of live births and educate barangay residents on all other important information on health, hygiene, sanitation, and wellness. Their goal is to address the basic medical and health needs of the community.

In view of the foregoing, I recommend the immediate passage of this bill.



HON. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

2nd District, Pangasinan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9299

INTRODUCED BY REP. JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES,
ASSIGNING AT LEAST ONE REGISTERED NURSE FOR
EVERY UNSERVED OR UNDERSERVED BARANGAY IN
THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. **Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "**Nurses to the Barangay Act of 2021**".

Sec. 2. **Declaration of Policies.** - The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare. Towards this end, it is further declared the policy of the State to promote a sustained and cultivated reservoir of national talents, preserving the skills and aptitude of our trained professionals, particularly our nurses, through the utilization and maximization of their medical knowledge that will likewise help promote the right of the people to health, thereby achieving the realization of a healthy and productive citizenry.

Sec. 3. **Program of the Employment of Nurses in Every Unserved or Underserved Barangay.** - There is hereby established a Program for the Employment of Nurses in every unserved or underserved barangay, for the purpose of improving the delivery of public health care services, to the unserved or underserved barangays in rural areas as well as underprivileged communities in the urban areas, while providing gainful employment to registered nurses and utilizing their professional competencies.

Sec. 4. **Role of Local Government Units.** - Each local government unit is mandated to identify barangays that are unserved or underserved by health care service and employ one (1) registered nurse for these barangays within their jurisdiction.

Sec. 5. **Recruitment, Selection, and Training.** - The local government units shall secure the assistance of the Department of Health in recruiting, selecting, and in training the registered nurses employed by Local government Units to ensure their capability in addressing public health and wellness concerns of the barangays.

For this purpose, the Department of Health is hereby mandated to issue guidelines setting the qualifications of nurses to be deployed to the barangays as well as come up with a module for the relevant training of these nurses. The guidelines to be set shall in no case discriminate against the hiring of fresh 16 graduates or newly passed registered nurses.

Sec. 6. **Minimum Qualification of Nurses.** - Nurses engaged under the program shall have the following minimum qualifications: must have a valid RN license issued by the Professional Regulatory Commission; must be willing to relocate to its assigned area, even temporarily; and must have passion for public health concerns.

Sec. 7. **Stipend.** - Nurses employed under the program shall be entitled to a monthly stipend preferably equal to salary grade 15, consistent with the mandatory minimum entry-level pay for government nurses under the Philippine Nursing Act of 24 2002, or Republic Act No. 9173.

Sec. 8. **Duties.** - Nurses under this program are required to provide an annual health status report regarding the average health and wellness of the barangay and must provide suggestions to the local government units to improve the health and wellness of all citizens of the barangay. Each deployed nurse shall render information dissemination on disease prevention, basic maternal and obstetric care, pre-natal and post-natal care, teen-age pregnancy counselling, family planning and reproductive health education, nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention, registration of live births and educate barangay residents on all other important information on health, hygiene, sanitation, and wellness.

Sec. 9. **Appropriations.** — The amount necessary to implement the program under this Act shall be initially appropriated out of the funds of the respective local government units. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the full implementation of this program shall be included in the respective budget of the local government units.

Sec. 10. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within sixty days (60) from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and DOH shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 11. **Separability Cause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

Sec. 12. **Repealing Clause.** — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 13. **Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,