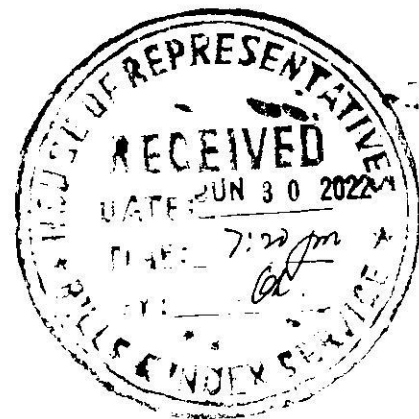




HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 591

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Introduced by Representative Christian Tell A. Yap

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay, the basic political unit in our country, is also the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies and programs. Needless to say, the role of barangay is very essential in nation-building and direct delivery of basic services to the people and the community. For this reason, it is imperative that measures which promote, develop and improve the general welfare of the barangay, its officials and residents be upheld through a Magna Carta.

Magna Carta, also called “The Great Charter”, is considered as one of the most documents in history. Its terms meant that no one was above the law and guaranteed the rights of individuals.

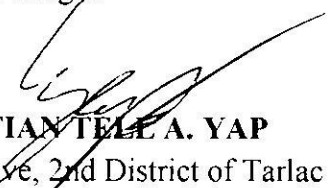
The Creation of Magna Carta for Barangays shall signify that the State recognizes that these basic political units play a fundamental part in nation-building.

This legislation seeks to provide a Magna Carta for Barangays, which covers the following specific provisions:

1. Barangay officials shall be considered as regular employees with fixed salaries, allowances, insurance, medical and dental coverage, retirement benefits, and other fringe benefits to which a regular employee is entitled;
2. Basic necessities, such as regular supply of clean and potable water, public transportation, schools, health centers, and barangay halls, shall be provided to every barangay;
3. Automatic release of share from national taxes;
4. Transfer of funds to the barangay for maintenance of roads and bridges within its area of jurisdiction;
5. Mandatory share of barangays in taxes, fees and other charges; and

6. Priority in employment for residents of barangays where a government construction or development will be implemented.

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



**CHRISTIAN TELL A. YAP**  
Representative, 2nd District of Tarlac

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 591

Introduced by Representative Christian Tell A. Yap

AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS

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

ARTICLE I  
TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “Magna Carta for Barangays.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to promote, develop, and improve the general welfare of barangay residents, raise the economic and social status of barangay officials, grant every barangay the basic facilities for decent, healthy, and comfortable living therein and provide new measures that will ensure its enjoyment of local autonomy for the effective performance of its role as the primary planning and implementing unit of government programs, projects, and activities, and as a forum in which the collective views of the people in the community may be crystallized and considered.

SEC. 3. *General Principles.* — The following are the general principles of this Act:

- a) The national government shall give more attention to the development of the barangays, as they are the country’s basic political units;
- b) Every barangay shall be given the authority and capability to handle its concern on its level; and
- c) Self-help or people power shall be the guiding principle in all barangay development projects.

ARTICLE II  
BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS REGULAR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

SEC. 4. *Barangay Officials as Regular Government Employees.* — The punong barangay, members of the sangguniang barangay, the sangguniang kabataan chairperson, the barangay

1 secretary, and barangay treasurer in all barangays are hereby declared regular government  
2 employees, and as such are entitled to the salary, emoluments, allowances, and benefits, such as  
3 but not limited to insurance, medical and dental coverage, retirement benefits, and all the other  
4 fringe benefits, to which a regular government employee may be entitled to.

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6 **SEC. 5. *Salaries of Barangay Officials.*** - As soon as the appropriate steps and measures  
7 are undertaken by each city or municipality in coordination with the individual barangay involved  
8 on matters relating to the sources of fund and the corresponding appropriation ordinance, which in  
9 no case shall be later than six (6) months from the approval hereof, the following barangay officials  
10 shall be entitled to the following fixed salaries:  
11

**Punong Barangay**

An amount equivalent to the salary of a  
sangguniang bayan member of his  
municipality or city

**Members of the Sangguniang Barangay**

An amount equivalent to eighty percent  
(80%) of the salary of a sangguniang  
bayan member of his municipality or city.

**Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson,  
Barangay Secretary,  
Barangay Treasurer**

An amount equivalent to seventy-five  
percent (75%) of the salary of  
sangguniang bayan member of his  
municipality or city.

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14 **ARTICLE III**

15 **BASIC PRIORITIES IN THE BARANGAY**  
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17 **SEC. 6. *Drinking Water for Every Barangay.*** - It is the right of every barangay to have a  
18 regular supply of clean and potable water. To attain this goal, every city or municipality, as the  
19 case may be, is hereby required to construct or maintain at least one (1) facility for drawing  
20 drinking water to supply the needs of every one thousand (1,000) residents for each barangay  
21 within its jurisdiction.  
22

23 **SEC. 7. *Transportation for Every Barangay.*** - It is also the right of every barangay to have  
24 public transportation available at least once a day. For this purpose, every municipality or city, as  
25 the case may be, should make such necessary representations before appropriate government  
26 agencies to require public utility companies operating primarily within its jurisdiction to provide  
27 the minimum means of transportation in every barangay.  
28

29 **SEC. 8. *Schools, Health Centers, and Barangay Halls for the Barangays.*** — As far as  
30 practicable, every barangay is entitled to have at least one (1) kindergarten and at least one (1)  
31 elementary school: Provided, *That* there shall be at least one high school for every five (5)  
32 kilometers from the barangay center. It shall also be the right of every barangay to have one (1)  
33 health center and one (1) barangay hall.  
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**ARTICLE IV**  
**MEASURES TO ASSURE THE ENJOYMENT OF LOCAL AUTONOMY**

**SEC. 9.** *Automatic Release of Share from National Taxes.* - The allotment representing the share of the barangay from the national taxes shall be released without need of any further action directly to the barangay treasurer on a quarterly basis within five (5) days after the end of each quarter.

**SEC. 10.** *Transfer of Funds to Barangay for the Maintenance of Roads and Bridges.* - All public funds appropriated from the National Treasury for the maintenance of barangay roads and bridges and other similar construction works shall be transferred or remitted directly to the general fund of every barangay for their proper disposition by barangay officials, subject to auditing laws, rules, and regulations.

**SEC. 11.** *Mandatory Share of Barangays in All Taxes, Fees, or Other Charges.* -Twenty-five percent (25%) of all taxes collected on real property located within the barangay shall be considered barangay funds and shall be allocated in accordance with existing laws. In addition thereto, each barangay shall be entitled to ten percent (10%) from all other forms of taxes, fees, penalties, compromises, or other charges collected from persons residing in the barangay or entities whose office or manufacturing plant is located within the barangay.

**SEC. 12.** *Equitable Share of the Barangay from the Proceeds of the Utilization and Development of National Wealth.* - For the exploitation, utilization, and development of natural resources within its territory, every barangay shall be entitled to an equitable share of the proceeds derived therefrom. The amount of barangay share shall be determined by the city or municipality concerned after consultations with the concessionaires, the municipal or city officials and barangay officials, taking into account the extent of the exposure of the barangay residents to pollution, flood and ecological imbalance: *Provided, That,* this equitable sharing rate for each barangay shall be resolved by all parties concerned not later than six (6) months from the approval of this Act.

Revenues derived from this source shall also form part of the general fund of the barangay.

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**ARTICLE V**  
**MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS**

**SEC. 13.** *Scholarship Grant.* - Every barangay shall sponsor at least one (1) scholarship grant every year leading to any bachelor degree to be awarded by a committee of five (5) persons appointed by the Sangguniang Barangay, with the approval of the Punong Barangay, after competitive examinations are given to applicants, who should be bona fide residents of the barangay. The grant shall include tuition fees and other school fees, reasonable allowances for schoolbooks, supplies, transportation, and other expenses as the barangay may deem appropriate.

**SEC. 14.** *Priority in Employment.* - Residents in every barangay shall have priority in the hiring of workers and laborers to be needed in any government construction or development project within the barangay.

**SEC. 15.** *Cooperative Enterprise.* - Cooperative enterprises in the barangay shall be encouraged and every barangay is directed to give full assistance for the establishment and

1 organization of said enterprises to take every possible effort to make cooperative undertakings a  
2 way of life in the barangay.

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4 **ARTICLE VI**  
5 **ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**  
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7 **SEC. 16. *Rides and Regulations.*** - The Secretary of the Interior and Local Government  
8 shall promulgate within ninety (90) days from approval hereof, such rules and regulations as may  
9 be necessary to implement the provisions of this Act. Rules and regulations issued pursuant to this  
10 section shall take effect (30) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and by  
11 such other means as the Secretary deems reasonably sufficient to give interested parties general  
12 notice of such issuance.  
13

14 **SEC. 17. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act  
15 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.  
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17 **SEC. 18. *Penal Provisions.*** - Any person who shall willfully interfere with, restrain, or  
18 coerce any barangay official or barangay resident in the exercise of the rights guaranteed by this  
19 Act or who shall in any other manner commit any act to defeat any of the provisions of this Act  
20 shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than Five hundred pesos (P500.00) nor  
21 more than Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00), or by imprisonment of six (6) months and one (1) day,  
22 or both fine and imprisonment, subject to the discretion of the court.

23 If the offender is a public official, the court shall, after conviction, order his dismissal from  
24 service, in addition to the imposable penalties.  
25

26 **SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
27 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force  
28 and effect.  
29

30 **SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules and  
31 regulations inconsistent with the foregoing provisions are hereby repealed or modified  
32 accordingly.  
33

34 **SEC. 21. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
35 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
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37 *Approved,*