

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 959



Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay officials are at the forefront of public service. Although they are the sector closest to the people, they are the most underappreciated, including in terms of salary and benefits. This representation believes that barangay officials are tedious workers who optimize their resources despite limited funding. They wholeheartedly perform their mandated duties and responsibilities at the community level by maintaining public order, enforcing laws and ordinances, and by promoting the general welfare of the community, among others. Barangay officials are heavily-relied upon by their constituents at the grassroots level.

With this said, it is proper that the State duly recognize the efforts of barangay officials by granting them well-deserved benefits and incentives. In this manner, we can also help ensure the faithful performance of the duties and responsibilities of barangay officials, while raising their quality of life at the same time.

This proposed measure grants tax exemption to barangay officials, including Tanods and members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, with regards to all amounts they receive from the government. Moreover, this representation proposed that the barangay officials and employees be considered made part of the Government Service Insurance System, with life insurance and social security coverage. It is also proposed that barangay officials receive benefits of government medical and health insurance programs and legal representation.

Barangay officials are given the arduous task of maintaining order at the community level, as well as perform other public service activities. This proposed bill aims to acknowledge their efforts in public service.

The approval of the proposed bill is earnestly sought.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 959

Introduced by the Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO

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

*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 “Barangay Workers Incentives Act.”

Sec. 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 their quality of life.

Sec. 3. *Tax Exemption.* – All amounts received by barangay officials, including Barangay Tanods and members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa - hereinafter particularly referred to as “barangay officials and barangay employees” - such as salaries, wages, compensation, remuneration and other emoluments like honoraria and allowances shall be exempt from income taxation. Gross benefits received by such

officials and employees, of whatever kind or character, shall likewise be exempted from taxation.

Sec. 4. *Exemption from POEA fees.* – Relatives of elected barangay officials within the first degree of consanguinity who shall decide to pursue employment outside the country shall be exempt from fees imposed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Sec. 5. *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 be 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.

Sec. 6. *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.

Sec. 7. *Legal Representation.* – Barangay officials and employees who may be involved as party litigants in administrative or criminal cases filed in connection with the performance of their official duties shall, as a matter of right, be entitled to the free legal services of the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) who shall facilitate the legal representation 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 employees.

Sec. 8. *Implementing 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 be necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 9. *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.

Sec. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 11. *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,