

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1241



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

AN ACT
GRANTING ADDITIONAL INSURANCE BENEFITS TO PUNONG BARANGAY, PROVIDING
FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ITS PREMIUMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the role of *punong barangay* or barangay chairpersons as the chief executive of the Barangay government mandated to exercise efficient, effective, and economical governance and maintain peace and order for the general welfare of its barangay constituents.

Inherent to the roles of *punong barangay* are to keep peace by organizing foot patrols, arbitrate in differences among community members, assist in the conduct of elections, and facilitate the evacuation of communities in disaster-hit areas brought by natural and man-made calamities.

In the conduct of these functions, especially during emergencies and calamities, barangay chief executives are the front-liners, putting their lives at risk in the service of their respective constituents.

However, the State recognizes that the mandated duties of the *punong barangay* are not commensurate to their meager honoraria, allowances and other emoluments. Similarly, hazard duty pay is not available to barangay chief executives.

The associated risks of their functions also place a higher premium to their insurance coverage. Most importantly, the current insurance benefits provided to all government officials, including all *punong barangay*, pursuant to Republic Act. No. 8291 (An Act Amending Presidential Decree 1146 as amended, expanding and increasing the coverage and benefits of

Government Services and Insurance System (GSIS), instituting reforms therein, and for other purposes) is deemed insufficient in terms of medical, death, and burial expenses.

Hence, this bill seeks to provide barangay chief executives with additional insurance benefits beyond what they currently receive from GSIS in recognition of their contributions to the community and advancement of their welfare as public servants.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roman T. Romulo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ROMAN T. ROMULO
Lone District, Pasig City

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Additional Insurance for Punong Barangay Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. *Additional Insurance Benefits for Punong Barangay.* - In addition to the insurance benefits given to the *Punong Barangay* by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) under Republic Act No. 8291, a term insurance coverage to all *Punong Barangay* providing the following benefits shall be granted:

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Death Benefits | P200,000 |
| (a) due to assassination or ambush | |
| (b) due to accidents and other similar | |
| circumstances while in the discharge | |
| of their official functions | |
| 2. Burial Expenses | P50,000 |
| 3. Reimbursement of Actual Medical Expenses | P100,000 |
| not to exceed on ambushes, attempted assassinations not resulting in death, | |
| accidents and other similar circumstances while in the discharge of their official | |
| functions | |

1 **SEC. 3. Disqualification from benefits.** - No benefits shall be given to any *Punong*
2 *Barangay* or his/her beneficiaries when the injury, sickness or death was occasioned or
3 caused by any of the following:

- 4
5 (a) habitual drunkenness or intoxication;
6 (b) willful intention to injure or kill oneself;
7 (c) notorious negligence;
8 (d) unauthorized absence or abandonment of office for at least one (1) month prior
9 to death or accident.

10
11 **SEC. 4. Actuarial Study.** - The GSIS shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of
12 this Act, conduct an actuarial study to determine the premiums to be paid corresponding to
13 the benefits to be granted to *Punong Barangay* in accordance with the schedule provided in
14 Section 2.

15
16 **SEC. 5. Appropriation.** - The National Government shall appropriate annually and
17 include in the General Appropriations Act an amount corresponding to the total annual
18 insurance premiums of the *Punong Barangay* based on the actuarial study under Section 4
19 hereof.

20
21 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The GSIS, in coordination with the
22 Department of Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the rules and regulations
23 necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

24
25 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason any provision or section of this Act is
26 declared unconstitutional, such portions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
27 effect.

28
29 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
30 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

31
32 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
33 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation
34

35 **Approved,**