

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1438



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE JOSE MARIA R. ZUBIRI JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the foundational unit of Philippine governance. As such, an optimized capability to deliver services by the barangay in a wide range of services will benefit the nation.

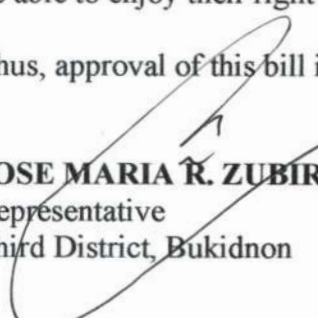
Health services are a mandated function of the barangay, as per Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, which states that the barangay shall provide "health and social welfare services which include maintenance of barangay health center and day-care center." But while RA 7160 mandates that the barangay provide health services, it does not mandate the appointment of full-time health workers to ably deliver said services.

By appointing full-time health workers, access to affordable health care will be available to our constituents. This is especially true in far-flung areas that are yet to have easy access to hospitals. In fact, even in urban areas, steep prices often bar underprivileged sectors from seeking necessary medical attention.

This bill seeks to address that oversight by ensuring that every barangay will have a proportionate number of accredited full-time health workers, thereby guaranteeing that the barangay fulfills its obligation to provide health services. These health workers shall be appointed by the municipal or city mayor, given that they are accredited by the local health board. These health workers will have security of tenure.

With the designation of barangay health workers, citizens in all corners of the nation will be able to enjoy their right to accessible, affordable, and quality health care.

Thus, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JOSE MARIA R. ZUBIRI JR.
Representative
Third District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN
EVERY BARANGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE,
FURTHER EXPANDING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Barangay Health Workers Act of 2022.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – Pursuant to Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State hereby declares the policy of according utmost importance to the health needs of the nation and shall henceforth endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. Toward this end, the State shall ensure that accessible and quality health services are extended to each individual through the barangay health workers as the primary channel for implementing the State’s health policies down to the barangay health needs, the State shall guarantee the appointment of a health worker in every barangay as frontline health workers.

SEC. 3. Coverage. – The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all barangay health workers accredited to act as such by the local health board in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Health (DOH). For the purposes of this Act, the term barangay health worker shall refer to a person who has undergone training program under any accredited government or non-government organization primarily to render health care services.

SEC. 4. Section 387 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

“Section 387. Chief Officials and Officers. – (a) There shall be in each barangay a Punong Barangay, seven (7) Sangguniang Barangay members, the Sangguniang Kabataan chairman, a barangay secretary, (and) a barangay treasurer, AND AT LEAST ONE (1) BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER: PROVIDED, THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS PER BARANGAY SHALL IN NO CASE BE MORE THAN 1% OF THE BARANGAY’S TOTAL POPULATION.”

SEC. 5. A New provision shall be inserted between Sections 359 and 396 of the same Act to be denominated as Section 395-A, which shall read as follows:

“SECTION 395-A. APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS - THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER AS ACCREDITED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BENEFITS ACT OF 1996, SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY MAYOR OF THE AREA WHERE SUCH BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER WILL BE APPOINTED IS LOCATED. A BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO HONORARIA, ALLOWANCES AND SUCH OTHER BENEFITS TO WHICH OTHER APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS MAY BE ENTITLED TO. NO PERSON DULY APPOINTED AS A BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE REMOVED EXCEPT FOR VALID CAUSE AS PROVIDED UNDER EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS AND ONLY AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING.”

SEC. 6. Section 393, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Section 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials. –

(a) Barangay officials, including barangay tanods and members of the lupong tagapamayapa, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal or city ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Code, but in no case shall it be less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per month for the punong barangay and Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per month for the sangguniang barangay members, barangay treasurer, [and] barangay secretary AND BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS: Provided, however, That the annual appropriations for personal services shall be subject to budgetary limitations prescribed under Title Five, Book II of this Code: PROVIDED FURTHERMORE, THAT THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS CODE SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE APPLICATION OF AND ENTITLEMENT TO OTHER INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW SUCH AS REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6942 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT.

(b) The Punong Barangay, the Sangguniang Barangay members, the Barangay treasurer, [and] the Barangay secretary AND THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER shall also: xxx

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, shall within ninety (90) days from the enactment of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,