



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4180



Introduced by Representative
HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 mandates three important functions that the barangay should discharge. Firstly, as a basic political unit, the barangay is used for governance in the country, being a political subdivision of the national government. Secondly, as a primary planning and implementing unit, it is mandated to plan development projects and programs and implement government policies and activities in the community, create projects in its territory and to deliver basic services of the government to the people. And thirdly, as a forum, the barangay gets the sound views of the people on various political topics.

Among the basic services rendered by the barangays are the basic health services and maintenance of peace and order, through the Barangay Health Workers (BHW) and Barangay Tanods, respectively. BHWs serve as the frontliners in the barangay in providing basic health services. They play a vital role in accomplishing the primary health care approach towards health empowerment by providing accessible and acceptable health services in the barangay level. Barangay Tanods, on the other hand, assist the government in the maintenance of peace and order which necessarily expose their lives and limbs to danger in the hands of bad elements of society. In recognition of their effective and vital role in the barangay, it is just fitting to provide them with adequate remuneration, capacity building, financial protection against life uncertainties and free legal assistance while in the discharge of their official duties.

This bill was filed in the 18th Congress by Representatives Bordado, Silverio, and Villafuerte.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY UNIT THROUGH SUPPORT FOR
BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND BARANGAY VOLUNTEER WORKERS,
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7160, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - Short Title. - This Act shall be known as **"The Barangay Reform Act"**

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — Declaration of Policy. - it is hereby declared policy of the state to empower and strengthen our Barangay Officials and Barangay Volunteer Workers in order to sufficiently provide front line government services to the Filipino people in the barangay level. The State acknowledges the need to provide for the financial burden of rendering service and the need to properly compensate and capacitate Barangay Officials and Volunteers. Furthermore, the State recognizes the need to ensure continuity of programs, projects and services of each barangay in order to effectively benefit our people.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following shall mean:

a) **Barangay Health Worker (BHW)** shall refer to a person who has undergone training programs under any accredited government and non-government organization and who voluntarily renders primary health care services in the community after having been accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH); and

b) **Barangay Tanod** shall refer to all duly appointed members of the barangay tanod brigades, which shall number not more than twenty (20) in each barangay as prescribed by Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

SECTION 4. Honorarium of BHWs and Barangay Tanods. - In order to ease the financial burden on our barangay officials and volunteers, the following benefits shall be given by the National Government for services rendered by the following Barangay Workers:

a) One(1) BHW in each Barangay shall receive a monthly honorarium of, not less than, Five Hundred (500) pesos from the Department of Health.

b) At least twenty Tanods, in each barangay, shall receive a monthly honorarium of, not less than, Five Hundred (500) pesos from the Department of Interior and Local Government

The Barangays may choose to give additional honorarium to the aforementioned volunteers. *Provided*, that such additional honorarium shall be charged against the local budgets of each barangay. *Provided further*, that Barangays shall ensure that all BHWs receive the same honorarium.

SECTION 5. Capacity Building for Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers — In addition to financial benefits, the National Government shall provide the following to Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers:

a) Training and workshops on how to effectively exercise their duty provided by the Department of Interior and Local Government for Tanods and Department of Health for BHWs, and any other such training fit for Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers.

b) PhilHealth coverage for BHWs, which shall include medical examination and treatment in government hospitals, and fully subsidized by the National Government through the Department of Health. *Provided*, that indigent barangay volunteers shall be covered through the full national government subsidy scheme.

c) Free legal services from government lawyers or the Public Attorney's Office for cases arising from acts committed in the performance of duty. Provided, that such legal services shall continue, even after the expiration of the term of the Barangay volunteer, until its final disposition.

SECTION 6. Continuity of Barangay Services - In order to ensure the continuity of Barangay Services, the term of office of all elected barangay officials after the effectivity of this Act shall be five (5) years. No barangay elective official shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position. The power of the Department of Interior and Local Government regarding suspension, removal, recall, and other disciplinary actions against offending Barangay Official, as prescribed by Republic Act 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, shall be in full force and effect in this Act.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of the Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the National Liga ng mga Barangay, Department of Health, and the Commission on Elections, shall issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portion thereof, as well as rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.