



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5450



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVIDING DRUGSTORES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
"BOTICA SA BAWAT BARANGAY" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The Constitution also provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be a priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. In compliance with this mandate of the Constitution, the Department of Health (DOH) implemented the Botika ng Barangay (BnB) program in the hopes of expanding the access of citizens to medicines.¹ Intended as a poverty-alleviation program by the government, the initiative was supposed to serve the poorest sectors of the Philippines.²

¹ *Community Drugstore (Botika ng Barangay): It's Contribution to Family Living Standards*. Palompon et. a. (2012). Liceo Journal of Higher Education Research 6(2): 133-152. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270835159_Community_Drugstore_Botika_ng_Barangay_Its_Contribution_to_Family_Living_Standards

² Ibid.

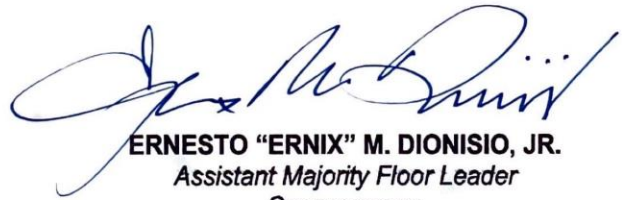
However, the number of outlets³ present in the Philippines only number around 170. This contrasts with the number of barangays in rural areas that are in dire need of affordable medicines. Below is the breakdown of BnB outlets per region of the country:

Region	Number of Outlets
SOCKSKARGEN	37
Eastern Visayas	20
Western Visayas	16
Bicol	14
Davao	12
CAR	10
CARAGA	8
Central Visayas	7
Ilocos	7
Central Luzon	6
Cagayan Valley	6
CALABARZON	5
Northern Mindanao	4
MOH-BARMM	4
NCR	3
Zamboanga Peninsula	2
MIMAROPA	2

Considering this, the proposed measure endeavors to establish community pharmacies in barangays based on population, poverty incidence, extent of medical health care and/or services, geographical conditions, financial and other socio-economic factors. The primary target of the measure that shall be economically depressed barangays and rural barangays with inadequate access to affordable medicine. More importantly, the proposed bill also highlights the role of local government units in informing the public of the benefits of availing medicine from community pharmacies.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is highly sought.

³ *Number of established drug outlets in rural areas Philippines 2021, by region*. Published by Statista Research Department (2022). <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1296228/philippines-number-of-botika-ng-barangay-outlets-by-region/>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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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 and cited as the *"Botica sa Bawa't Barangay Act"*.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end, the State shall provide adequate social services and endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to every barangay at affordable cost.

SECTION 3. Botica sa Bawa't Barangay. - The Department of Health shall, within thirty (30) days after the approval of this Act, undertake a three-year program for the establishment of barangay drugstores or Botica sa Bawa't Barangay (BSBB), giving priority to barangays on the basis of population, poverty incidence, extent of medical health care and/or services, geographical conditions, financial and other socio-economic factors and such other considerations as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of national plans and policies on social services, health and medical care.

SECTION 4. Establishment Priority. - The Department of Health (DOH) shall, in the establishment of the BSBB, undertake prior consultations with the Municipal Development Council concerned; *Provided*, That in the establishment of the BSBB, the highest priority shall be given to those economically depressed barangays and rural barangays. Existing BSBBs shall be maintained and shall be covered by relevant provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. Drugs Available. – The BSBB shall make available, only those drugs included in the "core list" of the national drug formulary, and the names thereof listed in their respective generic and trade names made available to the public.

SECTION 6. Botica sa Bawa't Barangay Aide. – The sale of medicines at the BSB shall be facilitated by an aide, who shall be chosen by and trained under the direction of the DOH.

SECTION 7. Information Campaign. – Local government units shall conduct an intensified information campaign about BSBBs within their jurisdiction with the objective of informing the public about the benefits of the initiative. The DOH shall also embark on a sustained promotional campaign to increase the community's awareness of the BSBB through its personnel, non-governmental organizations, barangay official, and the print and broadcast media.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Guidelines. - This Department of Health shall issue the necessary rules and guidelines as may be needed to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees and other executive issuances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. - In addition, the DOH shall also embark on a sustained promotional campaign to increase the community's awareness of the BSB through its personnel, non-governmental organizations, barangay official and the print and broadcast media.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. -This Act shall take effect upon fifteen (15) days after complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,