



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5492



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.**

**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY UNIT THROUGH SUPPORT FOR
BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND BARANGAY VOLUNTEER WORKERS,
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay officials play an important role in maintaining peace and order in the community. Likewise, Barangay Health Workers provide forefront and immediate care to their communities. At a time of emerging diseases and changing social order, these individuals play a critical role which should be recognized by the State.

In line with this, Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

Concomitantly, this bill seeks to bestow honorariums to the aforementioned modern-day heroes.

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

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 as the "Support for Barangay Workers Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the 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.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a) Barangay Health Worker (BHW) - a person who has undergone training programs under any accredited government or 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 - all duly appointed members of the barangay tanod brigades, which shall not be more than twenty (20) in each barangay as prescribed by Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

Sec. 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. The BHWs in each barangay shall receive a monthly honorarium of not less than One Thousand pesos (Php 1,000) from the DOH.
- b. The tanods of each barangay, shall receive a monthly honorarium of not less than Five Hundred pesos (Php 500) from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The barangays may choose to give an 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.

The barangays shall submit to the DOH a list of its BHWs and to the DILG a list of its tanods within ninety (90) days of the issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act.

Sec. 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 DILG for tanods, DOH 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 DOH: *Provided*, That indigent barangay volunteers shall be covered through the full national government subsidy scheme.
- c. Free legal services from government lawyers of 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.

Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DILG, in consultation With the National Liga ng mga Barangay and DOH, shall issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval.

Sec. 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,