

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6779



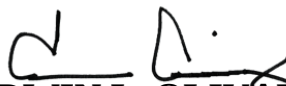
Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The security and welfare of our public health workers is of paramount importance. Their resiliency and courage during the pandemic period are undeniable.

This bill aims to grant a maximum of 25% of the monthly basic salary of public health workers who are directly exposed to matters of public health emergency as shall be declared by the President.

In an effort to support our public health workers should a public health emergency occur again, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.


EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ

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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE EDWIN L. OLIVAREZ**

**AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF SPECIAL RISK
ALLOWANCE TO FRONTLINE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS IN
TIMES OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Special Risk Allowance Act of 2023."

SECTION 2. Grant of Special Risk Allowance. - National government agencies, government-owned or controlled corporations, and local government units are authorized to grant a Special Risk Allowance (SRA) equivalent to a maximum of 25% of monthly basic salary pay to Public Health Workers (PHWs) who are exposed tremendously to health risks and physical hardships while in the line of duty in times of Public Health Emergency.

For purposes of this Act, "PHWs" shall refer to medical, allied medical, and other necessary personnel assigned in hospitals and healthcare facilities and who are directly exposed to matters of Public Health Emergency.

"Public Health Emergency" shall refer to an event of an epidemic of national and/or international concern which threatens national security in order to mobilize governmental and non-governmental agencies to respond to the threat as shall be declared by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 3. Conditions on the Grant of Special Risk Allowance. - The grant of the Special Risk Allowance shall be subject to the following conditions:

- a. The PHWs provide critical and urgent services to respond to the proclaimed public health emergency;

- b. The PHWs are either:
 - i. Civilian employees occupying regular, contractual, casual or part-time positions; or
 - ii. Workers engaged through contract of service (COS) or job order (JO) including barangay health workers (BHWs) regardless of the nature of engagement; provided that the workers are assigned to hospitals and other healthcare facilities.
- c. The PHWs physically report for work at their assigned work stations on the prescribed official working hours, as authorized by the head of agency/office during the period of public health emergency; and
- d. The grant of the special risk allowance shall be pro-rated based on the number of days that PHWs physically report to work during the period of the public health emergency in their respective places of assignment – the period of reckoning shall be determined by the proper government agency. The basis of the pro-rated grant of the special risk allowance shall be as follows:

No. of Days Physically Reporting for Work	Percentage of the Incentive
3 to 7	25%
8 to 12	50%
13 to 17	75%
18 or more	100%

SECTION 4. *Exclusion from the Grant of the Special Risk Allowance.* -

Those engaged without employer-employee relationship and funded from non-personnel services appropriations and budgets, except those authorized in the preceding such as the following:

- a. Consultants and experts engaged for a limited period to perform specific activities or services with expected outputs;
- b. Laborers engaged through job contracts and those paid on piecework basis;
- c. Student workers and apprentices; and

- d. All individuals and group of individuals whose services are engaged through COS or JO.

SECTION 5. *Special Risk Allowance for Public Health Workers of National Government Agencies and Government Owned or Controlled Corporations.* –

The amount required for personnel occupying regular, contractual, casual or part-time positions in national government agencies shall be charged against their available released personnel service (PS) allotments, while the amount required for COS/JO workers shall be charged against their available released Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) allotments, without need for prior authority from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), provided that all authorized mandatory expenses shall have been paid first.

In case of insufficient PS or MOOE allotments, the agencies concerned shall submit to the DBM a special budget request duly supported by a list of entitled personnel with the corresponding amounts required.

For GOCCs, the amount required shall be charged against their respective approved corporate operating budgets for the applicable fiscal year. A GOCC who does not have sufficient funds to fully cover the amount authorized herein may grant the same at a lower but uniform rate for all qualified personnel.

SECTION 6. *Special Risk Allowance for Public Health Workers in the Local Government Units.* - The grant of the SRA to PHWs in the LGUs including BHWs shall be determined by their respective Sanggunians depending on the LGU's financial capability, at rates not exceeding the amounts authorized herein, subject to:

- a. The PS limitations under the Local Government Code of 1991 in the case of employees of the LGU;
- b. Available MOOE allotments in the case of COS/JO workers and BHWs; and
- c. Conditions set by the appropriate governmental agencies, chargeable against the funds of the local government unit during the fiscal year of the said public health emergency.

Should there be insufficient funds to fully cover the SRA, a lower but uniform rate may be granted for all qualified personnel.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Budget and Management, in consultation with other concerned

government agencies, including the Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local Government, shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION. 8. *Separability Clause.* -If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with 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 a newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED.