

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Regular Session
Housing Bill No. **7603**



Introduced by Rep. Florida "Rida" P. Robes

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to safeguard life, health, property, and public welfare. To this end, it is necessary to fortify the maintenance of peace and order from the national government down to the barangay level in addressing the peace and order concerns within communities and localities.

Pursuant with Section 391 (16) of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as "The Local Government Code of 1991," Barangays possess the power to organize community brigades, barangay tanods or community services as may be necessary to assist in the peace and order efforts of the barangay. However, RA 7160 is silent on the qualifications of barangay tanods.

Confronted with the current challenge of rising incidents of lawlessness and violence in the country, barangays need to streamline, amplify and augment mechanisms to maintain the peace and order within their respective jurisdictions. Barangay tanods serve in the frontlines in the fight against lawlessness, crime and terrorism.

Therefore, to capacitate the barangay with qualified personnel in implementing peace and order measures, there is a need to impose certain qualifications and standards in the recruitment and qualifications of barangay tanods, as agents for peace and development. Moreover, there is also a need to provide a system of incentives to revitalize the commitment of Barangay Tanod members and recognize the merits of their services.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Regular Session
Housing Bill No. **7603**

Introduced by Rep. Florida “Rida P. Robes”

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF
BARANGAY TANOD MEMNERS IN BARANGAYS, PROVIDING
A SYSTEM OF MERIT AND INCENTIVE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in joint session:

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Barangay Tanod Qualifications Act of 2023 .”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared as the policy of the State to safeguard life, health, property, and public welfare. To this end, it is necessary to fortify the maintenance of peace and order from the national government down to the barangay level in addressing the peace and order concerns within communities and localities. In accordance with Section 391 (16) of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as “The Local Government Code of 1991,” Barangays possess the power to organize community brigades, barangay tanods or community services as may be necessary to assist in the peace and order efforts of the barangay. There is, therefore, a need to capacitate the barangay with qualified personnel in implementing peace and order measures by imposing certain qualifications and standards in the recruitment and qualifications of barangay tanods, as agents for peace and development.

Section 3. Scope. – This Act shall cover all barangay units in the Philippines. Barangay tanod members who have been appointed prior to the effectivity of this Act shall meet the qualifications herein stated.

Section 4. Composition of Barangay Tanod. – The barangay tanod is a community brigade composed of civilian volunteers duly appointed by the Punong Barangay upon recommendation of the Barangay Peace and Order Council (BPOC). The provision of the Local Government Code notwithstanding that there shall be a maximum of twenty (20) tanods in each barangay, barangays may recruit more as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of the barangay in accordance with the needs of public service, subject to the budgetary limitations of the barangay.

Section 5. Qualifications of Barangay Tanod members. – No person shall be appointed as a member of the barangay tanod unless he is found to be:

- a) A Filipino citizen;
- b) A bona fide resident and a registered voter for at least six (6) months of the barangay where he is appointed;
- c) At least eighteen (18) years old but not more than 59 years old at the time of his appointment;
- d) Can read and write but preferably a high school graduate;
- e) Of good moral character;
- f) Physically and mentally fit as certified by a competent public physician;

Retired government employees, police or military officers or personnel may be appointed; *Provided*, That they shall meet the above qualifications especially with regard to age and health. Nothing herein shall be understood to discriminate against age and health status of the appointee as the above qualifications are *bona fide occupational* qualifications necessary to the position of a barangay tanod member, his/her/its health, wellbeing, and safety.

Section 6. Entitlement to Incentives. – A member of the Barangay Tanod shall be entitled to a one-time lump sum incentive of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00) upon rendering at least ten (10) years of continuous service in good standing and without having been found guilty by final judgment of a competent court or tribunal of any criminal or administrative charges.

Section 7. GSIS Insurance Coverage. – The provisions of RA 8291, otherwise known as “*Revised Government Service Insurance Act of 1977*” and Section 522 of the RA 7160 and other relevant laws, members of the Barangay Tanod shall be considered members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and shall be covered by life insurance, social security, including retirement, disability, separation and unemployment benefits and such other benefits as may be extended by the GSIS, subject to limitations provided by laws. The GSIS shall make special provisions in order to facilitate the inclusion of barangay tanods in the benefit coverage of the GSIS.

Section 7. Mandatory Universal Health Coverage. – Members of the Barangay Tanod shall be automatically covered under the National Health Insurance Program in accordance with RA 11223, otherwise known as the “Universal Health Care Act.”

Section 8. Mandatory Retirement of Tanods. – A member of the Barangay Tanod who shall have reached the age of sixty (60) shall be deemed retired and shall not be allowed to continue his/her/their services as barangay tanod. A retired member of the Barangay Tanod shall be entitled to all retirement benefits and pension in accordance with RA 8291 and Section 522 of RA 7160, and such other retirement laws for government personnel.

Section 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Local and Interior Government (DILG) shall have the power to promulgate the implementing rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act within six (6) months from the approval hereof.

Section 10. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the respective budgets of barangay LGU, and such sources other funds as the barangay LGU may generate.

Section 11. Separability Clause. — If any part or provision of the Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 12. Repealing Clause. — The provision of Article II of DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2003-042 on “Composition of Barangay Tanod” and “Qualifications of Barangay Tanod Members” is hereby expressly repealed and superseded. All laws, rules, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.