

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9390



Introduced by **HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed legislation, titled the "Barangay Nutrition Scholars Benefits and Incentives Act," addresses the vital role of barangay nutrition scholars in advancing community health and nutrition. The Act underscores the importance of recognizing and supporting the services rendered by these scholars who actively and regularly perform their duties at the grassroots level. By acknowledging their contributions, the legislation aims to incentivize their work and enhance their capabilities for the betterment of community health.

The legislation delineates a range of incentives and benefits for accredited barangay nutrition scholars. These include a subsistence allowance for their meals during duty hours, opportunities for educational programs and career enrichment, civil service eligibility after five years of continuous service, legal representation in cases related to their duties, and access to cost-free dental and medical examinations. These incentives not only acknowledge the scholars' commitment to community welfare but also invest in their professional development and well-being.

To ensure the efficient administration of the benefits outlined in the Act, the bill mandates registration of barangay nutrition scholars with the local health board where they provide their services. The Civil Service Commission (CSC), in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), will formulate the necessary guidelines for registration. Furthermore, It also emphasizes the significance of a thorough review and approval process by the local health board for any incentive or benefit requiring local funding. This scrutiny ensures that the benefits are appropriately allocated, reaching the deserving scholars and effectively contributing to community health initiatives.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.



REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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AN ACT
GRANTING BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES TO ACCREDITED
BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Barangay Nutrition Scholars Benefits and Incentives Act. "

SECTION 2. Incentives and Benefits. - In recognition of their services, all accredited barangay nutrition scholars who are actively and regularly performing their duties shall be entitled to the following incentives and benefits :

- (a) Subsistence allowance.- Barangay nutrition scholars who rendered service shall be entitled to subsistence allowance equivalent to the meals they take in the course of their duty, which shall be computed in accordance with prevailing circumstances as determined by the local government concerned.
- (b) Training, Education, and Career Enrichment Programs. - The Department of Health (DOH), in accordance with the Department of Education (DepEd) and other concerned agencies and non-government organizations, shall provide opportunities for the following:
 - a. Educational programs which shall recognize years of service as credits to higher education institutions with stepladder curricula that will entitle barangay nutrition scholars to upgrade their skills and knowledge for community work or to pursue further training as nutritionists or related fields;
 - b. Continuing education, study and exposure tours, training, grants, field immersion, scholarships, etc.; and

- c. Scholarship benefits in the form of tuition fees in state colleges, to be granted to one (1) child of every barangay nutrition scholar who will not be able to take advantage of the above programs.
- (c) Civil Service Eligibility. - A second grade eligibility shall be granted to barangay nutrition scholars who have rendered five (5) years continuous service; Provided, That should the barangay nutrition scholars become a regular employee of the government, the total number of years served as barangay nutrition scholars shall be credited to his/her service in computing retirement benefits.
- (d) Free Legal Services -Legal representation and consultation services for barangay nutrition scholars shall be immediately provided by the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) in cases of coercion, interference, and in other civil and criminal cases filed by or against barangay nutrition scholars arising out of or in connection with the performance of their duties as such.
- (e) Free Dental and Medical Checkup. ~ Eligible for cost-free yearly dental and medical examination, which encompasses blood and urine tests, Electrocardiogram, Colonoscopy, X-Rays, and Audiometry at DOH hospitals.

SECTION 3. Registration. - In order for barangay nutrition scholars to be entitled to benefits and incentives provided under this Act, they shall register with the local health board in the city or municipality in which they render service. The Civil Service Commission (CSC) in coordination and consultation with the DOH shall formulate the guidelines relative to the registration of barangay nutrition scholars.

SECTION 4. Review by the Local Health Board. - Every incentive or benefit for barangay nutrition scholars requiring the expenditure of local funds shall be reviewed and approved by the local health board to ensure that only the deserving barangay nutrition scholars get the same.

SECTION 5. Rules and Regulations. - The DOH, in cooperation with the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and other concerned government agencies and non-government organizations, shall formulate within one hundred eighty (180) days from its effectivity, the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder or any provision hereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, and other presidential issues which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,