

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 449



Introduced by Representative OMAR S. DUTERTE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay serves as the basic political unit of the country, according to the Local Government Code of 1991. As the basic political unit, it deals with the primary planning and implementation of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community and serves as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be freely expressed, deliberated upon and considered, realized, and where disputes are resolved or may be amicably settled. Most, if not all, of the national government's efforts requires intervention and support of the barangays as they are the closest form of government to the people.

The administration of the barangay, composed of Punong Barangay and the Sangguniang Barangay officials, receive compensation in the form of honorarium, and not a fixed salary within a compensation system under the Local Government Code. Unfortunately, barangay officials are not granted corresponding death, disability and accident insurance during the performance of their duties, despite the number of risks attributed to their positions.

The barangay serves as the first recourse of the people, may it be in terms of conflict resolution, medical and burial support, financial assistance, disaster and risk response and management, and the like. Simply put, they serve as the frontliners and are expected to address a number of issues apart from their regular duties and responsibilities as Barangay Officials, which are already challenging to begin with. Hence, it is only right that these officials shall be accorded utmost protection in response to their on-the-ground call of duty.

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 6942 or "An Act Increasing the Insurance Benefits of Local Government Officials and Providing Funds 'Therefore' in order to expand the insurance coverage of barangay officials in times of death, total and permanent incapacity or disability, and

accident, and increasing the benefits to be received therein, thereby recognizing their vital role in immediately carrying out government's services to the communities.

Henceforth, in view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. OMAR S. DUTERTE

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AN ACT

PROVIDING DEATH, DISABILITY, AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE TO OTHER BARANGAY OFFICIALS, BARANGAY TANODS, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA, AND INCREASING THE INSURANCE BENEFITS PROVIDED THEREIN, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6942 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 1. Coverage of the Act. - Every punong barangay, sangguniang barangay member, [chairman of the kabataang barangay] SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN (SK) CHAIRMAN, Barangay secretary [and], barangay treasurer, BARANGAY TANOD, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKER, AND MEMBER OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA, and every member of the sangguniang panlalawigan, sangguniang panlungsod, and sangguniang bayan, duly elected or appointed, and duly qualified, who does not receive a fixed salary during his incumbency, shall be automatically covered by this Act: Provided, that the moment said official receives a fixed salary whether in the same capacity or by virtue of a permanent appointment in any other government office or by election to another public office, his coverage under this Act shall automatically cease and shall then be covered under the appropriate law. Any of the abovementioned local officials who shall automatically lose coverage or cease to be covered by this Act by virtue of termination or resignation from office for any lawful cause shall have the option to continue the coverage by paying the required premiums thereon."

SECTION 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. Death and Burial Benefits. - In the event of death of an insured official during this incumbency, the beneficiaries of a punong barangay or a member of the sangguniang panlalawigan, sangguniang panlungsod [or], sangguniang bayan, SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY, OR THE SK CHAIRMAN shall be entitled to Forty thousand pesos (P40,000.00) while the beneficiaries of a [member of sangguniang barangay,] barangay secretary, barangay treasurer [or chairman of the kabataang barangay], BARANGAY TANOD, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKER, OR MEMBER OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA shall

be entitled to Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00). In addition to the death benefits herein provided, a burial benefit of Four thousand pesos (P4,000.00) shall be paid to the beneficiaries within twenty-four (24) hours after written notice and satisfactory proof of death. Should a [barangay chairman] PUNONG BARANGAY, OR BARANGAY TANOD be assassinated or killed while in the performance of his duties or on the occasion thereof, his beneficiaries shall be entitled to double the amounts of indemnity provided above.

SECTION 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Total and Permanent Incapacity or Disability. In the event of total and permanent incapacity or disability as determined by the Government Service Insurance System, hereinafter referred to as the System, a punong barangay or a member of the sangguniang panlalawigan, sangguniang panlungsod [or], sangguniang bayan, SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY, OR THE SK CHAIRMAN shall be entitled to Twenty four thousand pesos (P24,000.00) while a [member of the sangguniang barangay,] barangay secretary, barangay treasurer [or chairman of the kabataang barangay] BARANGAY TANOD, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKER, OR MEMBER OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA shall be entitled to Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00): Provided, that the disability occurred during his incumbency whether work-connected or not. In addition to the disability benefits herein provided, a burial benefit of Four thousand pesos (P4,000.00) shall be paid to his beneficiaries in the event that death occurs within two (2) years from the onset of total and permanent incapacity or disability. Anyone availing of the benefits under this section cannot benefit from Sections Two, Four, and Five hereof."

SECTION 4. Paragraph 1, Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. Injuries Resulting from Accidents. - For injuries resulting from an accident occurring during his incumbency, whether work-connected or not, a punong barangay or a member of the sangguniang panlalawigan, sangguniang panlungsod, [or] sangguniang bayan, SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY, OR THE SK CHAIRMAN shall be entitled to the following benefits which in no case shall exceed the maximum benefit of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) per covered year;

SECTION 5. Paragraph 1, Section 5 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. Injuries Resulting from Accident of other Barangay Officials. For injuries resulting from an accident occurring during his incumbency, whether work-connected or not, a member of the sangguniang barangay, barangay secretary, barangay treasurer [or chairman of the kabataang barangay], BARANGAY TANOD, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKER, OR MEMBER OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA Shall be entitled to the following benefits which in no case shall exceed the maximum benefit of Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) per covered year:"

SECTION 6. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 6. Responsibility for Payment of Premiums. - For all the insurance benefits provided in the preceding sections, the national government of the Republic of the

Philippines shall appropriate annually and include in the General Appropriations Act the total annual premiums based on the TOTAL actual number of [local officials covered under Section One hereof and] PUNONG BARANGAYS, MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG PALALAWIGAN, PANLUNGSOD, BAYAN OR BARANGAY, AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRMEN: WHILE EACH BARANGAY CONCERNED SHALL APPROPRIATE ANNUALLY AND INCLUDE IN THEIR BUDGET THE TOTAL ANNUAL PREMIUMS BASED ON THE TOTAL ACTUAL NUMBER OF BARANGAY TANODS, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA as certified by the Department of Local Government. The annual premiums, unless later on adjusted in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall be Two hundred forty-seven pesos (P247.00) for every punong barangay and member of the sangguniang panlalawigan, sangguniang panlungsod, [or] sangguniang bayan, SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY, AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRMAN and Sixty- two pesos (P62.00) for every [member of the Sangguniang barangay,] barangay secretary, barangay treasurer and chairman of the kabataang barangay], BARANGAY TANOD, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKER AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA. The Entire appropriation for the payments of the foregoing total annual premiums shall be released to the Government Service Insurance System during the first month of every calendar year. The System shall conduct periodic actuarial studies to determine the adequacy of the contribution as provided herein. Based on such studies, the premiums may be adjusted and the total annual premiums based on the adjusted premium rates as certified by the System shall likewise be provided for in the General Appropriations Act AND THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE BARANGAYS CONCERNED for every applicable year thereafter.

SECTION 7. Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. All laws, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect immediately after publication.

Approved,