

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2144**



Introduced by Representative **CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Local Government Code of 1991 describes the barangay as the basic political unit which shall "serve as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community, and as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled." It is thus the very foundation of governance and nation-building.

Barangay officials and barangay volunteer workers, which include *barangay tanods*, barangay health workers, barangay day care workers, and members of the *Lupong Tagapamayapa*, are the "boots on the ground", our frontline workers in delivering government services to the grassroots. Through their efforts, the immediate concerns of the community are heard and addressed. With the COVID-19 virus and other emerging health threats, these barangay officials and barangay workers are, due to the public nature of their duties, more susceptible to sickness, diseases, and even death.

This bill seeks to include the abovementioned barangay workers in the insurance coverage enjoyed by local government officials provided under Republic Act No. 6942, otherwise known as "An Act Increasing the Insurance Benefits of Local Government Officials and Providing Funds Therefor".

Furthermore, it also provides for a higher death, disability, and accident benefit to members of the *Sangguninang Barangay* (which includes the chairman of the *Sangguniang Kabataan*) making them entitled to benefits at par with those granted to punong barangays, members of the *sangguniang panlalawigan*, *Sangguniang panlungsod*, and *Sangguniang bayan*. This increase is justified by added duties reposed on them which may not have been foreseen by the framers of RA 6942 at the time of its enactment.

This measure considers the impact of the Mandanas Ruling on the coffers of the

national government, especially in its upcoming full implementation. In this light, this proposal provides that premiums for all elected officials be charged against the national government while those for the appointive workers be charged against barangay funds.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
PROVIDING DEATH, DISABILITY, AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE TO
BARANGAY TANODS, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS
AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPONG TAGAPAMAYAPA, AND INCREASING THE INSURANCE
BENEFITS OF SANGGUNIAN BARANGAY MEMBERS, 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. Coverage of the Act. – Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows: “Every punong barangay, sangguniang barangay member, (chairman of the Kabataang barangay), SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN (SK), CHAIRMAN, Barangay Secretary, barangay treasurer, BARANGAY TANOD, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER, BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKER, AND MEMBERS 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. Definition of Term – *As used in this Act, the term “Barangay Health Worker”* refers to a person who has undergone training under any accredited government and nongovernment organization and who voluntarily renders primary healthcare 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) pursuant to Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7883 otherwise known as the "Barangay Health Workers" Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995.

Section 3. *Death and Burial Benefits.* – Section 2 of RA No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows: "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 Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) 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 Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00). In addition to the death benefits herein provided, a burial benefit of Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) 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 4. *Total and Permanent Incapacity or Disability.* – Section 3 of RA No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows "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 Twelve Thousand Pesos (P12,000.00) 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 Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00): 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 Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) 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 5. *Injuries Resulting from Accidents.* – Paragraph 1, Section 4 of RA No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows: "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 Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) per covered year;"

Section 6 . *Injuries Resulting from Accident of other Barangay Officials.* Paragraph 1, Section 5 of RA No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows: "For injuries resulting from an accident occurring during his incumbency, whether work-connected or not, a member of the Sangguniang B a r angay, 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 Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per covered year:"

Section 7. *Responsibility for Payment of Premiums.* – Section 6 of RA No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows "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 Panlalawigan, 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 wokers, 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 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 (GSIS) 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 8. *Separability Clause.* 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 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, orders, issuances, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect immediately after publication.

Approved,