

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 2195



Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

**AN ACT PROTECTING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT
(DRRM) RESPONDERS AND VOLUNTEERS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH DURING
CALAMITIES AND EMERGENCIES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “GOOD
SAMARITAN LAW”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world, regularly experiencing typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods, and other natural and human-induced emergencies. In such times, the swift mobilization of both government responders and ordinary citizens plays a critical role in saving lives, delivering aid, and restoring communities.

This proposed measure, to be known as the “Good Samaritan Law,” seeks to provide legal protection to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) responders and civilian volunteers who act in good faith during calamities and emergencies. The bill affirms the constitutional principles of human dignity, the right to life, and the duty of the State to promote civic engagement and disaster resilience.

At present, despite the vital contributions of volunteers and emergency workers, there remains a legal gray area that can expose them to criminal or civil liability for unintended consequences that may arise during rescue or relief operations. This legal uncertainty discourages participation and undermines the spirit of *bayanihan* that Filipinos are globally

known for. By clarifying that no responder or volunteer shall be held liable for actions taken without gross negligence or willful misconduct, the measure ensures that the fear of legal repercussions does not hinder efforts to render timely assistance.

The bill defines key terms to distinguish between government-assigned DRRM personnel, accredited responders, and spontaneous civilian volunteers—all of whom may be protected under the Act, provided their actions are within reasonable and lawful bounds. To support this framework, the proposed law mandates the development of clear protocols and ethical standards by the NDRRMC and the DOJ, alongside the establishment of a national volunteer registry and training and certification programs to ensure safety, competence, and accountability.

Recognizing the risks borne by these individuals, the bill also provides for medical support and indemnity through PhilHealth or other applicable insurance mechanisms for those who may be injured or incapacitated in the line of service. Furthermore, it encourages LGUs and government agencies to promote public education on responsible volunteerism and disaster preparedness.

Ultimately, this measure aims to institutionalize the protection and recognition of those who step forward in moments of greatest need—ordinary citizens who, out of compassion and civic duty, choose to help. By shielding them from undue legal risk, we encourage more Filipinos to take part in building safer, more resilient communities.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Poe", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

Representative

FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2195

Introduced by Representative

BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA

**AN ACT PROTECTING DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT
(DRRM) RESPONDERS AND VOLUNTEERS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH DURING
CALAMITIES AND EMERGENCIES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “GOOD
SAMARITAN LAW”**

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Good Samaritan Law.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to uphold the value of bayanihan, protect human rights, and promote volunteerism in the delivery of essential public services. The State recognizes the indispensable role of disaster responders and civilian volunteers in reducing the impact of calamities and emergencies. This Act aims to provide legal protection to those who act in good faith to save lives, alleviate suffering, and provide emergency assistance.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

(a) DRRM Responders refer to individuals authorized, trained, or assigned by government agencies or accredited organizations to engage in emergency or disaster response activities.

(b) Volunteers refer to individuals who, without compensation and regardless of affiliation, render aid during disasters or emergencies.

(c) Good Faith refers to actions performed honestly, without malice, gross negligence, or intent to cause harm, and within the limits of one's training or competence.

(d) Calamity or Emergency includes natural or man-made disasters such as typhoons, earthquakes, floods, fires, pandemics, and other similar events.

SEC. 4. Legal Protection from Liability. – No DRRM responder or volunteer acting in good faith shall be held civilly or criminally liable for death, injury, or damages caused during rescue, relief, or emergency response activities, provided such actions are within reasonable limits and not due to gross negligence or willful misconduct.

SEC. 5. Coverage. – This Act shall apply to:

- (a) Government DRRM personnel;
- (b) Accredited volunteer responders;
- (c) Spontaneous civilian volunteers acting in good faith;
- (d) Members of non-government organizations, civic groups, and faith-based institutions engaged in disaster response.

SEC. 6. Protocols and Guidelines. – The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), in coordination with the Department of Justice (DOJ) and other relevant agencies, shall develop protocols and guidelines for determining good faith, proper conduct, and ethical standards in disaster response activities.

SEC. 7. Training and Certification. – The Office of Civil Defense (OCD), in partnership with local government units and civil society organizations, shall establish mandatory training and certification programs for DRRM volunteers to ensure competence, safety, and accountability.

SEC. 8. Volunteer Registry. – The NDRRMC shall maintain a national database of certified DRRM volunteers. Registration in this database shall be a requirement for eligibility under this Act's protections and benefits.

SEC. 9. Indemnity and Medical Support. – Volunteers and responders injured or incapacitated during lawful disaster response activities shall be entitled to medical support through PhilHealth or other applicable insurance mechanisms. The Department of Health (DOH) shall coordinate with PhilHealth to ensure coverage and claims processing.

SEC. 10. Promotion of Civic Duty. – Government agencies and local government units shall promote awareness, education, and capacity-building programs to foster a culture of civic duty, preparedness, and responsible volunteerism.

SEC. 11. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the implementing agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brian Poe", with a stylized flourish extending from the end of the name.

HON. BRIAN DANIEL POE LLAMANZARES, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List