

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2572



**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
AND JOCELYN P. TULFO**

**AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER
IN EVERY BARANGAY, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THERETO, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

In the Philippines, nutrition-related health issues persist. According to the World Bank Databank: Global Nutrition Report, stunting remains a major challenge while anemia is also a major issue for children in the country. Evidence-based and cost-effective interventions can improve nutrition outcomes, and community health workers play a critical role in providing such interventions.¹

Among the country's nutrition workforce, nutrition workers remain as the first line of defense against diseases and infections, and serve as the vital link between communities to health providers and facilities, and ultimately the government. In accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1569, one volunteer barangay nutrition scholar shall be provided in every barangay to deliver nutrition services, community health, and environmental sanitation, among other responsibilities, to address malnutrition in the country. Under the current set-up, barangay nutrition scholars are coterminous with the barangay officials who hired them. They are forced to resign after three years, upon the end of term of their appointers and the assumption of the

¹ "How Do Community Health Workers Contribute to Better Nutrition? Philippines", *Strengthening Partnerships, Results, and Innovations in Nutrition Globally project (SPRING)*, 2016, www.spring-nutrition.org/sirtes/default/files/publications/tools/spring-apc_country_slide_doc-philippines_29_nov_2016.pdf.

new set of barangay officials, disrupting and greatly affecting ongoing health and nutrition community programs and projects.²

This proposed legislative measure seeks the creation of one (1) mandatory position of “Barangay Nutrition Worker” in every barangay who is entitled to a monthly allowance of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00) and other benefits and incentives. This will further strengthen the Barangay Nutrition Program, as well as the delivery of nutrition services and other related activities – such as community health, backyard food production, environmental sanitation, culture, supplemental feeding, and responsible parenthood – to the barangay.

In view of the foregoing, the urgent passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO
Representative
2nd District of Quezon City



JOCELYN P. TULFO
Representative
ACT-CIS Partylist

² “Abalos pushes for regularization of barangay health workers, nutrition scholars”, Villamente, Jing, *Daily Tribune*, 16 Feb 2024, <https://tribune.net.ph/2024/02/16/abalos-pushes-for-regularization-of-barangay-health-workers-nutrition-scholars>.

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1 **AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER**
2 **IN EVERY BARANGAY, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THERETO, AND**
3 **APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
6 *assembled:*
7

8 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known and referred to as the “Barangay
9 Nutrition Worker Act”.
10

11 **SEC. 2. *Barangay Nutrition Program.*** – To further strengthen the Barangay Nutrition
12 Program, there shall be created under the administration and supervision of the
13 National Nutrition Council (NNC), in coordination with the city or municipality and
14 the barangay, one (1) mandatory position of Barangay Nutrition Worker in every
15 barangay with a monthly allowance of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (PhP5,000.00).
16

17 **SEC. 3. *Barangay Nutrition Worker.*** – The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be
18 appointed by the Mayor, with the concurrence of the majority of all Sangguniang Bayan
19 or Sangguniang Panlungsod Members, and the Sangguniang Barangay concerned. The
20 Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be responsible for delivering nutrition services and
21 other related activities such as community health, backyard food production,
22 environmental sanitation, culture, supplemental feeding, and responsible parenthood
23 to the barangay.

1
2 **SEC. 4. *Services.*** – The Barangay Nutrition Worker, while undergoing training under
3 the Barangay Nutrition Program, shall serve the barangay on a voluntary basis for at
4 least six (6) months. Thereafter, the NNC shall assess his or her performance and make
5 the necessary recommendation for his or her appointment.

6
7 **SEC. 5. *Qualifications.*** – The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall possess the following
8 qualifications:

- 9
10 (a) A bona fide resident of the barangay for at least one (1) year, with ability to speak
11 the major dialect;
12 (b) With leadership potential and the initiative and willingness to serve the barangay
13 for at least one (1) year;
14 (c) Willingness to learn and to teach what he or she has learned to the barangay
15 residents;
16 (d) At least a high school graduate;
17 (e) Physical and mental fitness; and
18 (f) At least eighteen (18) years old, but not more than sixty (60) years old.

19
20 **SEC. 6. *Recruitment.*** – The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be recruited from
21 within the barangay and shall be tested on the basis of mental ability and work aptitude.

22
23 **SEC. 7. *Training.*** – Before actual barangay service, the Barangay Nutrition Worker
24 shall undergo appropriate and sufficient training on selected topics, such as nutrition,
25 health, food production, and environmental sanitation, based on defined task
26 expectations to be conducted by a provincial training team in coordination with the
27 municipal and barangay nutrition committee. This training shall be supplemented by a
28 practicum to be conducted in the barangay where the worker is assigned, and such
29 activity shall be in coordination with the local training team.

1 **SEC. 8. *Benefits.*** – The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be entitled to a training
2 stipend, meal, and travel allowance of at least Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00) per
3 day. During the period of volunteer service prior to his or her appointment, the
4 Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be entitled to allowance of Five Thousand Pesos
5 (Php5,000.00) every month.

6
7 The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be granted a civil service eligibility equivalent
8 to second grade after the completion of at least two (2) years of continuous and
9 satisfactory service in the barangay.

10
11 **SEC. 9. *Incentives.*** – To further enhance the nutrition program, the NNC, in
12 coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, shall formulate a scholarship
13 program where incumbent and deserving barangay nutrition workers shall be given
14 the opportunity to avail of a scholarship grant in any state college or university and
15 pursue a course relevant to his or her present position.

16
17 **SEC. 10. *Nutrition Committees.*** – The organization of local nutrition committees and
18 the implementation of their respective nutrition program shall be the responsibility of
19 the provincial/city nutrition committee headed by the Governor/Mayor as Chairman
20 and a municipal nutrition committee headed by the Mayor as Chairman.

21
22 **SEC. 11. *Local Training Team.*** – The local training team of the municipality or city
23 shall be composed of two (2) members chosen from among the members of the
24 municipal or city nutrition committee. This team shall follow up the activities of the
25 trained Barangay Nutrition Worker.

26
27 **SEC. 12. *Role of the Mayor.*** – The Municipal or City Mayor shall initiate activities to
28 implement the nutrition program within the municipality or city and organize the local
29 training teams, and may recommend the appropriation by the municipality or city of a

1 local counterpart in the form of additional allowance for the Barangay Nutrition
2 Worker.

3
4 **SEC. 13. *Barangay Nutrition Workers Staff Secretariat.*** - There shall be a staff
5 secretariat in every province or city which shall monitor the program, identify its
6 problems, and recommend possible solutions thereto.

7
8 **SEC. 14. *Role of the National Nutrition Council.*** - The NNC shall formulate rules
9 and regulations, plans and programs within the limits set forth in this Act, and allocate
10 the funds to the various provinces and/or agencies for disbursement in accordance with
11 the financial plan of the Barangay Nutrition Program.

12
13 **SEC. 15. *Donations.*** - For purposes of this Program, the National Nutrition Council
14 and the local government units (LGUs) are authorize to receive grants, donations, gifts,
15 or bequests from various government agencies and government corporations which
16 shall be tax exempt.

17
18 **SEC. 16. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of
19 this Act is hereby appropriated from any available funds in the National Treasury or
20 from the Special Activities Fund, and authorized to be released. Thereafter, such sums
21 as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in
22 the annual General Appropriations Act.

23
24 LGUs are likewise authorized to appropriate such amount necessary for the effective
25 implementation of this Act: *Provided, That* the city or municipality shall appropriate as
26 part of its annual budget for personal services the necessary amount of Five Thousand
27 Pesos (Php5,000.00) per month per Barangay Nutrition Worker: *Provided, further, That*
28 third- to fifth-class municipalities shall appropriate Two Thousand Pesos (Php2,000.00)
29 per month per Barangay Nutrition Worker. The difference in the Five Thousand Pesos

1 (PhP5,000.00) monthly allowance per Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be included in
2 the General Appropriations Act for the year following the enactment of this Act.

3
4 **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is held
5 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts thereof not affected thereby
6 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7
8 **SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.*** – The provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1569 and all
9 other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof
10 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
11 accordingly.

12
13 **SEC. 19. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
14 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

15
16 *Approved,*