

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2945



Introduced by Representative Kathryn Joyce F. Gorriceta, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In every corner of our barangays, the spirit of *bayanihan* thrives through the quiet, selfless service of our barangay volunteers - our Barangay Health Workers, Tanods, Day Care Workers, Disaster Responders, and countless others who serve without fanfare and often without fair compensation. In the Second District of Iloilo, they are the unseen hands that care for the sick, keep our communities safe, nurture our children, and respond first in times of disaster and emergency.

They are the lifeblood of grassroots governance - the bridge between national programs and local realities, yet their sacrifices remain largely unrecognized by our institutional systems. Despite their crucial roles, these volunteers continue to work under precarious conditions: underpaid, under-protected, and under-supported.

According to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Health (DOH), there are currently over **200,000 Barangay Health Workers** and more than **400,000 Barangay Tanods** serving across 42,000 barangays nationwide. Many of them are regularly exposed to health hazards, conflict situations, and natural calamities, yet few are given access to proper training, insurance, or livelihood support.

This bill aims to change that reality by **establishing a standardized compensation and support framework** for all barangay-based volunteers in the Second District of Iloilo.

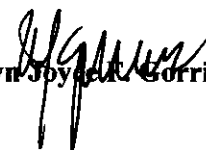
It seeks to institutionalize a system of recognition and care through honoraria, access to health services, capacity-building programs, and scholarship opportunities for their children.

Moreover, it strengthens the responsibility of Local Government Units and mandates oversight mechanisms through the DILG, DOH, and DBM to ensure proper implementation and sustainability.

This is more than just a policy - it is a statement of values. It is a long-overdue acknowledgment that the people who care for our communities deserve to be cared for in return.

Through this measure, we affirm that **grassroots service is not charity - it is essential labor** that must be supported, dignified, and protected.

Let us pass this bill not only in recognition of the past sacrifices of our barangay volunteers, but also in hopeful commitment to a more just and inclusive future for all who serve.


Kathryn Joycel R. Gorriceta, M.D.

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AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND ESTABLISHING A STANDARDIZED COMPENSATION AND SUPPORT FRAMEWORK FOR BARANGAY-BASED VOLUNTEERS SUCH AS BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, BARANGAY TANODS, AND SIMILAR PERSONNEL, STRENGTHENING LGU RESPONSIBILITY, AND INSTITUTIONALIZING OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS THROUGH THE DILG, DOH, AND DBM

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 Volunteers Compensation Equity and Support Act of the Second District of Iloilo.**"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* The State recognizes the indispensable contributions of barangay-based volunteers as frontliners in delivering basic services to the grassroots. Despite their critical roles, most receive minimal or irregular compensation, with some barangays providing as low as ₱500 monthly or none at all. It is the policy of the State to institutionalize fair and equitable compensation, promote volunteer dignity, and strengthen LGU accountability in accordance with the principles of decentralization and inclusive governance.

SECTION 3. Objectives. This Act aims to:

- a. Set a minimum standard for compensation of barangay volunteers across LGUs;
- b. Provide access to social protection, training, and safety benefits;
- c. Ensure budgetary support and compliance from LGUs and national agencies;
- d. Establish a data-driven monitoring system for accountability and continuous improvement.

SECTION 4. Coverage. This Act shall cover **registered barangay volunteers** in the Second District of Iloilo, including but not limited to:

- a. Barangay Health Workers (BHWs)

- b. Barangay Tanods
- c. Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS)
- d. Barangay Day Care Workers
- e. Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Volunteers
- f. Barangay Peacekeeping Action Teams (BPATs)
- g. Other recognized volunteer positions as determined by our national agencies

SECTION 5. Barangay Volunteer Registry. Each municipality in the Second District shall establish and maintain a **Barangay Volunteer Registry**, to be updated annually by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) and Barangay Captains. Volunteers, who are non-plantilla personnel accredited by barangays without formal government employment, must be actively serving for at least six **(6) months** to be eligible for incentives under this Act.

SECTION 6. Minimum Compensation. Barangay volunteers shall receive a minimum honorarium of ₱1,000 per month, subject to annual adjustments based on regional wage indexation and LGU classification. LGUs are authorized to grant higher rates, subject to fiscal capacity and DBM guidelines. Failure to comply must be justified in LGU budget hearings and annual audit reports.

SECTION 7. Additional Benefits. All covered barangay volunteers shall be entitled to:

- a. **Annual Recognition and Service Awards** for outstanding volunteers
- b. **Training and Capacity Building** in disaster response, health, education, and peacekeeping
- c. **Livelihood Assistance** or micro-grants for volunteers wishing to start small businesses
- d. **Scholarship Assistance** for one child or dependent of the volunteer, subject to local scholarship board guidelines

SECTION 8. *Funding.* The initial funding shall be sourced from the **Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA)** or **National Tax Allotment (NTA)** of the municipalities in the Second District. Subsequent funding shall be included in the annual budgets of the LGUs. National agencies such as the DILG, DOH, and DSWD are encouraged to provide supplemental support. LGUs are encouraged to realign their savings and non-essential expenses to fund the programs outlined in this bill.

SECTION 8. Implementing Agencies and Responsibilities.

- a. DILG as lead agency for accreditation, LGU compliance, reporting, and data registry;
- b. DOH shall be responsible for health-related trainings, benefits, and monitoring of BHWs and BNS;

- c. DBM for issuing budgeting guidelines and technical support to LGUs on implementing the compensation standards.
- d. TESDA for life-support, first-aid, disaster risk management trainings, and other essential upskilling programs necessary for the needs of the barangay volunteers.

These agencies shall jointly issue the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) within 90 days after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 9. Monitoring and Evaluation.

LGUs shall submit annual compliance reports to the DILG and COA, showing: number of covered barangay volunteers; amount allocated and disbursed; documentation of benefits received.

Non-compliance without valid justification shall be flagged by the DILG and reported to the Civil Service Commission and Congress.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, or rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,