

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 3710

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

ENHANCING THE INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Barangay Health Workers play a major role in the provision of basic health services to the constituents in the grassroots level. For the constituents, they are the first point of contact for those seeking health information and services from the government.

Hence, given their crucial role, there is a need for them to be properly trained and equipped to ensure that they give the correct information and services that the constituents need.

At the same time, the State also realizes their vulnerability especially during the recent pandemic, where the BHW have been heavily relied upon to deliver basic health services in the barangay particularly those under lockdown.

While the BHWs already receive monthly honorarium from the municipality, city or barangay, it is not sufficient to cover their daily requirements. In some municipalities, BHWs are assigned to isolated barangays and would have to make do with what little resources they have to perform their duties and to survive the current conditions in their area of assignment.

As such, it is deemed necessary that the State establish measures to ensure that they are duly compensated and are given the appropriate incentives and benefits for them to efficiently aid in implementation of health programs in the community.

Through this bill, the State seeks to enhance the incentives and benefits of the Barangay Health Workers.

It is for this reason that the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


a CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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AN ACT
ENHANCING THE INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS OF BARANGAY HEALTH
WORKERS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title** - This Act shall be known and cited as “Enhancing the Incentives and
2 Benefits of Barangay Health Workers Act”.

4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy**- It is hereby the declared policy of the State to
5 protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

6 The State recognizes that the key to achieving universal health care is the provision of
7 primary health care services through the support of the local government units. The state also
8 acknowledges the vital role of the Barangay Health Workers in the effective implementation of
9 the primary health care programs and as such, it shall develop policies to promote their well-being
10 and enhance their potentials as partners in nation-building.

11 To this end, the State shall establish measures to supplement the incentives and enhance
12 benefits for the Barangay Health Workers.

1 **SECTION 3. Coverage-** This Act shall cover all registered BHWs and all Local
2 Government Units and National Agencies that require the assistance of the BHW to extend the
3 delivery of primary health care services to the barangays.

4 **SECTION 4. Incentives and benefits.** All registered BHWs shall be entitled to an
5 honorarium of not less than three thousand (P3,000.00) pesos every month. Aside from this, they
6 shall be eligible to the receive following incentives and benefits:

- 7 a) Hazard Allowance- All accredited BHWs shall be granted hazard allowance in the
8 amount that is to be determined by the local health board of the Local Government
9 Unit;
- 10 b) Subsistence allowance- An accredited BHW who renders services in **an isolated**
11 **barangay** shall be eligible to receive subsistence allowance equivalent to the meals
12 she would take while performing her duties. This allowance shall be based on the
13 current conditions which will be determined by the local government unit. However,
14 the amount of subsistence allowance per day shall not be less than One Hundred
15 pesos (P100.00) per day;
- 16 c) Transportation Allowance – All accredited BHWs whether they are assigned to
17 isolated barangays or not shall be granted transportation allowance of not less than
18 one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) every month, subject to the auditing rules and
19 regulations;
- 20 d) One-time Retirement Cash Incentive- An accredited BHW who has rendered
21 continuous service for at least fifteen (15) years shall be entitled to one-time
22 retirement cash incentive amounting to one hundred thousand (P100,000.00) which
23 shall be shouldered by the municipality or city;
- 24 e) Training, education and Career Enhancement Programs- it shall be the responsibility
25 of the Department of Health in coordination with other agencies such as DepEd,
26 Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development
27 Authority (TESDA), to provide information to the BHW on opportunities for Career
28 Enhancement Programs and education. This may come in the form of educational
29 programs, continuing education, study tours, grants, scholarships and special
30 training programs;
- 31 f) Health Benefits- All accredited BHWs shall be entitled to health benefits such as the
32 following:
 - 33 1. Free Medical care package which includes surgery and surgical expenses,
34 medicines, x-ray and other laboratory fees when confined in any public
35 hospital or health institution;
 - 36 2. Emergency assistance in the amount of Five thousand (P5,000.00)
37 chargeable to funds of concerned barangays in case of extreme emergency
38 and BHW has to be admitted in the nearest private hospital or clinic;

1 3. Mandatory and immediate membership to PhilHealth as indirect
2 contributors.

- 3 g) Insurance Coverage-Accredited BHWs shall be granted insurance by the
4 Government Service Insurance System which in return shall develop an insurance
5 package that is suitable to the needs of the subject;
6 h) Sick, vacation and maternity leaves- All accredited BHWs shall be entitled to sick,
7 vacation and maternity leave as may be provided in the implementing rules and
8 regulations of this Act.
9 i) Cash Gift- The concerned barangay shall allocate funds for the provision of cash gift
10 to all accredited BHWs that is not less than the minimum honorarium and will be
11 given every December;
12 j) Disability Benefit- in case of injury sustained while performing their duties,
13 accredited BHWs shall be entitled to Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) for every year
14 of service rendered prior to injury. In case however of permanent disability, the
15 BHW shall be given two thousand (P2,000.00) pesos monthly until her death;
16 k) Free Legal Services- In cases of coercion, interference and other criminal cases filed
17 against the BHW, a legal representation and consultation may be provided by the
18 Public Attorney's Office;
19 l) Preferential Access to Loans- The DOH in coordination with other concerned
20 government agencies shall provide a mechanism to grant organized BHWs access to
21 loan services within one hundred eighty (180) days after effectivity of this Act.
22 Further, the DOH set aside one percent (1%) of the loanable funds for organized
23 BHW groups with income-generating projects supporting health programs or
24 activities.

25 **SECTION 5. *Review by the Local Health Board-*** The Local Health Board shall review
26 every incentive or benefit for BHWs that shall entail expenditure for the barangays. The LHB shall
27 have the discretion to increase the incentives based on the present Consumer Price Index as
28 published by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

29 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations-*** The amount necessary for the implementation of this
30 ACT shall be allocated and charged against the National Tax Allotment (NTA) of the local
31 government units, other local funds and special health fund under the Universal Health Care Act.

32 **SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulation-*** The DOH and the DILG shall
33 consult with concerned agencies such as DepEd, GSIS and non-governmental organizations and
34 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for this Act within one hundred and eighty
35 (180) days from effectivity of this Act.

1 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional or inoperative, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and
3 effect.

4 **SECTION 9 *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulation or parts
5 thereof contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
6 accordingly.

7 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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10 *Approved,*