

The bill also creates a Barangay Tanod Welfare Fund for medical assistance, scholarships, and legal defense, and mandates modernization through the provision of uniforms, radios, motorcycles, and digital tools. Importantly, the measure opens a career pathway by granting qualified barangay tanods Civil Service Subprofessional eligibility after continuous satisfactory service and completion of training requirements, thereby integrating them into the civil service system.

By recognizing barangay tanods as essential community peace and order personnel and providing for their welfare and development, this bill strengthens the foundation of grassroots governance and enhances national peace and order.

In view of the foregoing, the swift passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


RAYMOND ADRIAN E. SALCEDA

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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4223**

Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAY TANODS, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS BARANGAY PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS (BPSO), BARANGAY
POLICE OFFICERS (BPO), OR BARANGAY PEACEKEEPING AND SECURITY
OFFICERS, PROVIDING FOR THEIR RIGHTS, BENEFITS,
PROFESSIONALIZATION, WELFARE, MODERNIZATION, AND CAREER
DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Magna Carta for Barangay Tanod.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to recognize the indispensable role of Barangay Tanods in maintaining peace and order, promoting public safety, and serving as frontliners in disaster preparedness and community governance. Towards this end, the State shall ensure their protection, professionalization, welfare, and career development, and provide adequate support for the effective discharge of their duties.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act, the term “Barangay Tanod” shall refer to the members of the Barangay Tanod Brigades duly organized in every barangay pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991. They are civilian volunteers appointed to assist barangay officials in maintaining peace and order, preventing and suppressing criminality, enforcing laws and ordinances, and responding to emergencies.

They are also known as Barangay Public Safety Officers (BPSO), Barangay Peacekeeping and Security Officers (BPSO), Barangay Police Safety Officers (BPSO), or Barangay Police Officers (BPO) in some localities, but for purposes of uniformity, they shall collectively be referred to as “Barangay Tanod” under this Act.

SEC. 4. *Rights and Privileges.* Barangay Tanods shall enjoy the following rights and privileges:

- (a) Legal recognition as essential community peace and order personnel;
- (b) Protection from retaliation, harassment, or undue interference while performing official duties; and
- (c) Priority access to training, equipment, and welfare programs as provided in this Act.

SEC. 5. Compensation and Benefits.

- (a) Honoraria and Allowances. Barangay Tanods shall receive minimum honoraria, hazard pay, transportation, and communication allowances, to be provided by their respective barangays. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall establish augmentation mechanisms for barangays with limited resources.
- (b) Insurance and Benefits. Barangay Tanods shall be covered by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), Social Security System (SSS) or Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund).
- (c) Retirement Gratuity. Barangay Tanods who have served at least fifteen (15) years shall be entitled to a retirement gratuity equivalent to one year of honoraria and allowances.
- (d) Death and Disability Benefits. In case of death or permanent disability in the line of duty, the family or dependents shall receive financial assistance from the Barangay Tanod Welfare Fund as provided in this Act.

SEC. 6. Training and Professionalization.

- (a) A National Barangay Tanod Training Program is hereby established under the supervision of the DILG, in coordination with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Philippine Public Safety College.
- (b) The training shall cover peacekeeping, community policing, first aid, disaster risk reduction and management, and human rights.
- (c) Barangay Tanods shall undergo initial training within six (6) months of appointment, and mandatory annual refresher courses thereafter.

SEC. 7. Civil Service Eligibility Pathway. Barangay Tanods who have completed at least five (5) years of continuous and satisfactory service, and who have completed the mandatory training and certification programs under this Act, shall be granted Barangay Official Eligibility (BOE) equivalent to Civil Service Subprofessional eligibility, pursuant to the rules of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

This eligibility shall qualify them for appointment to positions in the career service that require subprofessional eligibility, subject to the requirements of the CSC and applicable laws.

SEC. 8. *Barangay Tanod Welfare Fund.* There is hereby created a Barangay Tanod Welfare Fund under the DILG for:

- (a) Medical and hospitalization assistance;
- (b) Scholarships for dependents;
- (c) Legal assistance in cases filed in relation to official duties; and
- (d) Emergency financial aid for injuries or deaths in the line of duty.

The Fund shall be sourced from the General Appropriations Act, contributions from local government units (LGUs), and grants, donations, or endowments.

SEC. 9. *Modernization and Equipment Support.* The State shall ensure the modernization of barangay peacekeeping through the provision of:

- (a) Standardized uniforms and identification cards;
- (b) Radios, flashlights, and other basic operational equipment;
- (c) Motorcycles, bicycles, or patrol vehicles for barangays with large geographic coverage; and
- (d) Body cameras and digital tools for high-risk barangays.

The DILG shall prioritize disaster-prone areas and urban centers with higher crime incidence.

SEC. 10. *Legal Assistance.* Barangay Tanods shall be entitled to free legal representation and assistance in all administrative, civil, or criminal cases arising from the lawful performance of their duties.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Mechanism.* The DILG, in consultation with the DBM, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the CSC, and the PNP, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity. Barangay Peace and Order Councils shall integrate the strengthening of the Barangay Tanod in their annual plans.

SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act under the budget of the DILG. Local government units are encouraged to provide counterpart funds and support.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,