

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4641



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

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY DRUGSTORES,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BOTIKA NG BARANGAY"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, it is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Likewise, in accordance with Article XIII, Section 11, the State is mandated to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost.

By virtue of Department of Health Administrative Order No. 144, s. 2004, the "Botika ng Barangay" (BnB) program was launched in 2004. The BnB was defined as a drug outlet managed by a legitimate community organization, non-government organization and/or local government unit, with a trained operator and a supervising pharmacist. The BnB was a government-initiated poverty alleviation program to increase access of community people to affordable medicines.¹ Having been renamed

¹ Palompon, Daisy et al., "Community-Based Drugstores (Botika ng Barangay): Its Contribution to Family Living Standards", *RESEARCHGATE*, 2009,
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/270835159_Community_Drugstore_Botika_ng_Barangay_Its_Contribution_to_Family_Living_Standards

to "Botika ng Bayan" (BNB), it was subsequently discontinued in 2011,² and later on revived in 2018.³ These BNBs were flagship outlets of the Cheaper Medicines Program of the government that used the franchising business format. However, this program met difficulties due to its sustainability and nature as a private franchise.⁴

This proposed legislative measure seeks to establish barangay drugstores anew to be known as "Botika ng Barangay" in economically depressed barangays. In this bill, a "Botika ng Barangay Aide" shall be chosen by and trained under the direction of the Municipality or City Health Office, in close coordination with the Punong Barangay and head of the Barangay Health Center and shall facilitate the sale of medicines. Thus, this bill aims to ensure the proper, convenient, and regular access of the Filipino people to affordable essential medicines, most especially in poor communities.

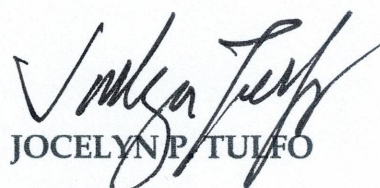
In view of the foregoing, the urgent passing of this bill is earnestly sought.



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO

Representative

2nd District of Quezon City



JOCELYN P. TULFO

Representative

ACT-CIS Partylist

² Lalu, Gabriel Pabico, "DOH revives Botika ng Bayan to help LGUs, rural health units", *INQUIRER.NET*, 16 Jul 2018, <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1010737/doh-revives-botika-ng-bayan-to-help-lgus-rural-health-units>

³ Noriega, Richa, "Botika ng Bayan programs", *GMA NEWS ONLINE*, 22 Feb 2022, <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/topstories/nation/822676/dilg-directs-lgus-to-strengthen-botika-ng-bayan-programs/story/>

⁴ Picazo, Oscar, "Review of the Cheaper Medicines Program of the Philippines: Botika ng Barangay, Botika ng Bayan, P100 Treatment Pack, and the Role of PITC Pharma, Inc. in Government Drug Procurement", *PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES*, 2012, <https://serp-pids.gov.ph/publication/public/view?slug=review-of-the-cheaper-medicines-program-of-the-philippines-botika-ng-barangay-botika-ng-bayan-p10>

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Botika ng Barangay Act”.

2
3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State shall protect and promote the right to
4 health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Towards this end,
5 the State shall provide adequate social services and endeavor to make essential goods,
6 health, and other social services available to every barangay at affordable cost.

7
8 **SEC. 3. *Botika ng Barangay.*** – The Department of Health (DOH) shall, within sixty
9 (60) days after the approval of this Act, undertake a three-year program for the
10 establishment of barangay drugstores or Botika ng Barangay (BNB) in every barangay,
11 giving priority to barangays on the basis of population, poverty incidence, extent of
12 medical health care and services, geographic conditions, financial and other socio-
13 economic factors, and such other considerations as may be deemed necessary in

1 undertaking the program within the context of national plans and policies on social
2 services, health, and medical care.

3
4 **SEC. 4. *Establishment Priority.*** – The DOH shall, in the establishment of BNB,
5 undertake prior consultations with the Municipal/City Development Council
6 concerned: *Provided, That* in the establishment of the BNB, highest priority shall be
7 given to economically depressed barangays. Existing BNBs shall be maintained and
8 shall be covered by relevant provisions of this Act.

9
10 **SEC. 5. *Drugs Available.*** – The BNB shall make available only those medicines
11 included in the “core list” of the National Drug Formulary, and the names thereof listed
12 in their respective generic and trade names made available to the public.

13
14 **SEC. 6. *Botika ng Barangay Aide.*** – Sale of medicines at the BNBs shall be facilitated
15 by an aide, known as the “Botika ng Barangay Aide”, who shall be chosen by and
16 trained under the direction of the Municipality or City Health Office, in close
17 coordination with the Punong Barangay and head of the Barangay Health Center.

18
19 **SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Health, in
20 cooperation with the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, shall issue the
21 necessary rules and regulations as may be needed to fully implement the provisions of
22 this Act. In addition, the DOH and the Department of the Interior and Local
23 Government shall also embark on a sustained promotional campaign to increase the
24 community’s awareness of the BNBs through its personnel, barangay officials, and the
25 media.

26
27 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is held
28 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions or parts thereof not affected thereby
29 shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

5
6 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
7 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

8
9 *Approved,*