



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6774**

Introduced by **Representative GIRLIE E. VELOSO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution affirms that the State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments and recognizes their essential role as partners in national development, mandating Congress to enact measures that strengthen the capacity of local government units to become effective instruments of social justice and service delivery.¹ Within this constitutional framework, the barangay stands as the most basic political unit of government and the primary forum where citizen concerns are first heard, addressed, and elevated. The barangay serves as the frontline implementing arm for national programs, disaster response, peace and order functions, health and social welfare interventions, and community-level governance initiatives, making it indispensable to the effective functioning of the State. Despite this constitutional importance, barangays across the country continue to operate with severe limitations in personnel, resources, and institutional support, while barangay officials shoulder wide-ranging responsibilities without the salaries, benefits, or formal recognition accorded to regular government employees. Many barangay officials nationwide receive only minimal honoraria instead of regular salaries and enjoy limited social protection, while barangays suffer from chronic underfunding and limited fiscal capacity. Such structural and financial constraints have undermined the ability of barangays to perform their devolved functions effectively. Although the Local Government Code of 1991 sought to decentralize authority and empower barangays, its provisions on honoraria, allowances, and support mechanisms have proven insufficient to meet the increasing demands placed on barangay officials, especially in disaster response, health crises, law enforcement coordination, and community development.

This proposed measure addresses these longstanding gaps by declaring barangay officials as regular government employees entitled to fixed salaries, standard allowances, and the full range of benefits enjoyed by other public servants, including GSIS, PhilHealth, and Pag-IBIG coverage. By professionalizing their employment status, the bill advances the constitutional mandate to strengthen local governance and supports the Supreme Court's *Mandanas-Garcia* ruling, which reaffirmed the broader fiscal responsibility and autonomy of local units.² The measure ensures that

¹ 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article X, Local Government.

² Supreme Court of the Philippines. (2021). *Mandanas, et al. vs. Executive Secretary, et al.*, G.R. Nos. 199802 & 208488.

barangays gain the fiscal stability and institutional support necessary to manage their expanding duties, including health and sanitation programs, peace and order maintenance, environmental enforcement, community mobilization, and the administration of frontline services. It further enhances local autonomy by facilitating the automatic release of barangay shares from national taxes, ensuring predictable funding flows essential for planning, budgeting, and uninterrupted community service delivery. Additionally, the bill recognizes the vital role of barangay tanods as the community's first responders in maintaining public order, empowering the Sangguniang Barangay to determine their appropriate number and granting them uniform benefits that align with their public safety responsibilities. The bill also strengthens the physical and institutional capabilities of barangays by promoting access to basic facilities such as water, transportation, schools, health centers, and barangay halls, thereby supporting the right of residents to live in safe, healthy, and functional communities.

By establishing clear support mechanisms, capacity-building programs, and professional development through the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Local Government Academy, this bill builds a governance framework where local leaders are better equipped to meet the demands of transparent, accountable, and community-centered administration. In doing so, it acknowledges the indispensable work of barangay officials, who serve as the State's first line of governance and whose efforts often determine whether national policies succeed at the household and neighborhood level. The proposed Magna Carta for Barangays not only uplifts the welfare of barangay officials but also ensures a stronger and more responsive foundation for local governance, ultimately benefiting communities nationwide.

In view of the foregoing, support for the enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.


REP. GIRLIE E. VELOSO
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. House Bill No. **6774**

Introduced by **Representative GIRLIE E. VELOSO**

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS

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

ARTICLE I — POLICY AND PRINCIPLES

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Magna Carta for Barangays Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to promote, develop, and improve the general welfare of the barangay and its residents; to raise the economic and social status of barangay officials; to ensure that every barangay has access to basic facilities necessary for a decent, healthy, and comfortable standard of living; and to adopt measures that strengthen and protect barangay autonomy so that barangays can effectively perform their role as the primary planning and implementing units of government programs, projects, and activities, and as the forum where the collective views of the community are articulated.

SECTION 3. General Principles. — The following are the general principles of this Act:

- (a) The national government shall give more attention to the development of the barangays, as they are the country's basic political units;
- (b) Every barangay shall be given the authority and capability to handle its concerns on its level; and
- (c) Self-help or people power shall be the guiding principle in all barangay development projects.

ARTICLE II — BARANGAY OFFICIALS

SECTION 4. Barangay Officials as Regular Government Employees. — The punong barangay, members of the sangguniang barangay, the sangguniang kabataan chairperson, the barangay secretary and barangay treasurer in all barangays are hereby declared regular government employees, and as such, are entitled to the salary, emoluments, allowances such as hazard pay, Representation and Transportation Allowance, Personnel Economic Relief Allowance, Productivity Incentive Bonus, Clothing Allowance and 13th month pay, and other benefits such as insurance, medical and dental coverage, retirement benefits, and all other fringe benefits to which a regular government employee may be entitled to.

They shall likewise be covered by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the National Health Insurance Program under PhilHealth, and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG). Employer and employee contributions shall be shared by the barangay and the city or municipality, with National Government assistance for financially incapable local government units, under guidelines to be issued jointly by the DBM, DOF, and DILG, and as may be provided in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. Salaries of Barangay Officials. — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, each city or municipality, in coordination with the individual barangay involved, shall undertake the necessary steps relating to the sources of funds and the corresponding appropriation ordinances. Upon completion of these measures, all barangay officials mentioned in Section 4 hereof shall be entitled to the following fixed salaries:

- (a) Punong Barangay — An amount equivalent to the salary of a sangguniang bayan member of his/her municipality or city;
- (b) Members of the Sangguniang Barangay — An amount equivalent to eighty percent (80%) of the salary of the sangguniang bayan member of his/her municipality or city; and
- (c) Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, Barangay Secretary and Barangay Treasurer — An amount equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary of the sangguniang bayan member of his/her municipality or city.

All salary grades and compensation levels shall be standardized in accordance with Republic Act No. 6758 (Salary Standardization Law), subject to guidelines to be issued by the DBM. Compensation shall be implemented without exceeding the fifty-five percent (55%) personal services limitation under Republic Act No. 7160. When a barangay or its parent LGU is unable to meet these obligations due to fiscal incapacity, the National Government shall provide assistance through an appropriate budgetary mechanism.

SECTION 6. Appointment, Selection and Benefits of Barangay Tanods. — There shall be barangay tanods in every barangay who shall maintain peace and order, and enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the protection of lives and properties in their respective barangays. The sangguniang barangay shall, through a resolution, determine the appropriate number of barangay tanods needed in their respective barangay.

1 The appointment and selection of barangay tanods shall be done by the Punong Barangays
2 with the concurrence of the majority of the members of the sangguniang barangay concerned in
3 accordance with the merit and fitness principle: Provided, That no person shall be appointed
4 barangay tanod unless the applicant is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the barangay
5 concerned, of good moral character and of sound mind: Provided further, That patronage or
6 partisan considerations shall not be a basis for such selection and appointment.

7 Barangay tanods shall be appointed to a permanent status during the administration of the
8 sangguniang barangay which appointed them. They shall receive the following benefits and
9 privileges:

- 10 (a) Honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments as may be authorized by law or
11 barangay, municipal or city ordinance in accordance with the provisions of Republic
12 Act No. 7160, but in no case shall it be less than Six hundred pesos (P600.00) per
13 month;
14 (b) Christmas bonus of at least One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) each, the funds for which
15 shall be taken from the general fund of the barangay or from such other funds
16 appropriated by the national government for the purpose;
17 (c) Insurance coverage which shall include, but shall not be limited to temporary and
18 permanent disability, double indemnity, accident insurance, death and burial benefits;
19 (d) Free medical care including subsistence, medicines, and medical attendance in any
20 government hospital or institution: Provided, That such hospital care shall include
21 surgery or surgical expenses, medicines, X-rays, laboratory fees, and other hospital
22 expenses; and
23 (e) Exemption during their incumbency from paying tuition and matriculation fees for
24 their legitimate dependent children attending state colleges or universities. Barangay
25 tanods may likewise avail of such educational benefits in a state college or university
26 located within the province or city to which the barangay belongs.

27 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to reduce or remove any benefits, allowances, or
28 privileges currently enjoyed by barangay officials or barangay tanods under existing laws,
29 ordinances, or local policies.

30 Prior service of barangay officials shall be credited for purposes of GSIS retirement
31 benefits and other entitlements, subject to guidelines to be issued by the GSIS, DBM, and DILG.

32 **ARTICLE III — BASIC PRIORITIES IN THE BARANGAY**

33 **SECTION 7. Drinking Water for Every Barangay.** – It is the right of every barangay
34 to have a regular supply of clean and potable water. To attain this goal, every city or municipality,
35 as the case may be, is hereby required to construct or maintain at least one (1) facility for drawing
36 drinking water to supply the needs of every one thousand (1,000) residents for each barangay within
37 its jurisdiction.

1 pollution, flood and ecological imbalance: Provided, That, this equitable sharing rate for each
2 barangay shall be resolved by all parties concerned not later than six (6) months from the approval
3 of this Act. Revenues derived from this source shall also from part of the general fund of the
4 barangay.

5 **ARTICLE V — MISCELLANEOUS BENEFITS**

6 **SECTION 14. Scholarship Grant.** – Every barangay shall sponsor at least one (1) college
7 scholarship grant every year to be awarded by a committee of five (5) persons appointed by the
8 Sangguniang Barangay, with the approval of the Punong Barangay, after competitive examinations
9 are given to applicants, who should be bona fide residents of the barangay. The grant shall include
10 tuition fees and all other school fees, reasonable allowances for school books, supplies,
11 transportation, and other expenses as the barangay may deem appropriate.

12 **SECTION 15. Priority in Employment.** – Residents in every barangay shall have priority
13 in the hiring of workers and laborers to be needed in any government construction or development
14 project within the barangay.

15 **SECTION 16. Cooperative Enterprise.** – Cooperative enterprises in the barangay shall
16 be encouraged. Every barangay is directed to give full assistance for the establishment and
17 organization of said enterprises and to take every possible effort to make cooperative undertakings
18 a way of life in the barangay.

19 **ARTICLE VI — ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

20 **SECTION 17. Training and Capability Development.** – The Department of the
21 Interior and Local Government, through the Local Government Academy, shall design and
22 implement mandatory orientation and continuing capacity-building programs for barangay officials
23 to professionalize local governance and improve service delivery. Funds for this purpose shall be
24 included in the annual budget of the DILG.

25 **SECTION 18. Rules and Regulations.** – The Secretary of the Interior and Local
26 Government shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the
27 provisions of this Act. Rules and regulations issued pursuant to this Section shall take effect thirty
28 (30) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation and by such other means as the
29 Secretary deems reasonably sufficient to give interested parties general notice of such issuance.

30 **SECTION 19. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the implementation of this
31 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Appropriations shall also
32 support National Government assistance to LGUs unable to meet the personnel services
33 requirements arising from this Act, as determined by the DBM.

34 **SECTION 20. Penal Provisions.** — Any person who unlawfully withholds, diverts, or
35 delays the release of salaries, benefits, or lawful shares of barangays under this Act, or who shall

1 willfully interfere with, restrain or coerce any barangay official or barangay resident in the exercise
2 of rights guaranteed by this Act, shall be liable under applicable laws, including but not limited to
3 this Section, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, and relevant provisions of the Revised
4 Penal Code. Administrative liability under civil service rules shall likewise apply when appropriate.

5 **SECTION 21. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
6 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
7 modified accordingly.

8 **SECTION 22. Separability Clause.** — If, for any reason, any section of this Act shall
9 be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions shall not be affected and
10 shall remain in force and in effect.

11 **SECTION 23. Effectivity Clause.** — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
12 from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
13 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

14 Approved.