

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Regular Session
House Bill No. **7077**



Introduced by REP. BENJAMIN C. AGARAO, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS,
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE UNDER
THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to make essential health services available to all. This mandate was further strengthened by Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act, which emphasizes a people-centered, integrated health system anchored on strong primary care.

Despite continuing reforms, the Philippine health system continues to face persistent health workforce gaps, particularly in frontline and community-level care. Physician and nurse shortages remain significant, especially in rural and underserved areas, placing greater pressure on community-based health services. In this context, Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) serve as indispensable partners in health promotion, disease prevention, early detection, referral, and community surveillance—functions that are vital to the success of UHC.

However, the welfare, training, protection, and support systems for Barangay Health Workers remain fragmented and uneven across local government units. Many BHWs continue to serve with limited and inconsistent incentives, inadequate access to training and protection, and unclear institutional recognition, despite the increasing scope and complexity of their responsibilities.

This measure seeks to institutionalize a strengthened Magna Carta for Barangay Health Workers by:

- (a) recognizing BHWs as essential members of the primary health care workforce;
- (b) establishing a modernized national registry and competency-based training framework;
- (c) providing standardized, inflation-responsive minimum incentives and protection mechanisms;
- (d) aligning implementation and financing with the Universal Health Care Act and the Special Health Fund; and
- (e) ensuring safeguards against discrimination, political coercion, and unsafe working conditions.

By strengthening the support system for Barangay Health Workers, the State strengthens the foundation of the health system itself, ensuring that quality health services reach Filipino families where they live, especially those in the most vulnerable communities.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



BENJAMIN C. AGARAO, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Regular Session
House Bill No. 7077

Introduced by REP. BENJAMIN C. AGARAO, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS,
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY-BASED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE UNDER
THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE ACT, 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 of Barangay Health Workers.**”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people by strengthening primary health care under the Universal Health Care Act. The State recognizes Barangay Health Workers as essential members of the community health workforce and shall ensure their welfare, development, protection, and institutional support in order to improve access to quality health services, particularly at the community level.

SEC. 3. Definition of Barangay Health Worker.

A **Barangay Health Worker (BHW)** refers to a person who is duly accredited by the Department of Health and the local government unit, who voluntarily renders primary health care support services in the community, including health promotion, disease prevention, maternal and child health support, referral and navigation within the health system, community health surveillance, and assistance in emergency and disaster response, in coordination with licensed health professionals.

SEC. 4. Accreditation and National Registry.

The Department of Health (DOH) shall establish and maintain a **single, centralized, and digital National Registry of Barangay Health Workers.**

Local government units shall be responsible for accrediting Barangay Health Workers in accordance with DOH standards and for regularly updating and validating registry data. The registry shall be interoperable with relevant health information systems and shall comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

SEC. 5. Staffing Standards.

The DOH, in consultation with local government units and relevant stakeholders, shall prescribe **minimum staffing standards for Barangay Health Workers** based on population size, geographic conditions, health risk profiles, and service delivery requirements under the Universal Health Care framework. Such standards shall be subject to periodic review and adjustment.

SEC. 6. Incentives and Honoraria.

Barangay Health Workers shall receive a **monthly honorarium of not less than Three Thousand Pesos (₱3,000.00)**.

The amount shall be **subject to periodic adjustment** based on inflation, as determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority Consumer Price Index, at intervals to be specified in the implementing rules and regulations.

Funding for honoraria may be sourced from local government unit appropriations, the Special Health Fund where allowable, and national government augmentation for financially disadvantaged local government units, subject to existing laws and rules.

SEC. 7. Allowances and Other Benefits.

Barangay Health Workers may be granted hazard allowance, transportation allowance, subsistence allowance, uniforms or personal protective equipment, and other benefits necessary for the performance of their duties, subject to the availability of funds and applicable budgeting and accounting rules.

SEC. 8. Insurance and Health Coverage.

All Barangay Health Workers shall be enrolled as members of the National Health Insurance Program under PhilHealth, with contributions funded by the local government unit, the Special Health Fund where applicable, or other lawful sources.

Barangay Health Workers shall likewise be provided **government-funded group insurance coverage** through the Government Service Insurance System or any other government insurance provider, as may be legally appropriate.

SEC. 9. Training and Professional Development.

The DOH shall establish a **national competency-based training and continuing education framework** for Barangay Health Workers, aligned with primary health care and Universal Health Care service delivery needs.

Training programs may be implemented in coordination with relevant government agencies, academic institutions, and technical education providers, including the recognition of applicable TESDA-accredited qualifications.

SEC. 10. Working Conditions and Protection.

Barangay Health Workers shall be provided a safe and supportive working environment and shall not be subjected to discrimination, harassment, or political coercion. They shall be protected from undue termination or removal except for just cause, in accordance with due process.

SEC. 11. Grievance and Representation.

Barangay Health Workers shall have access to appropriate grievance mechanisms at the local and national levels. The DOH, in coordination with local government units, shall ensure the availability of legal assistance for Barangay Health Workers in cases arising from the lawful performance of their official duties.

SEC. 12. Funding and Appropriations.

The amounts necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against appropriations of concerned agencies and local government units, including the Special Health Fund where applicable. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Within **ninety (90) days** from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of Budget and Management, PhilHealth, and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 14. Separability Clause.

If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. Repealing Clause.

All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. Effectivity.

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