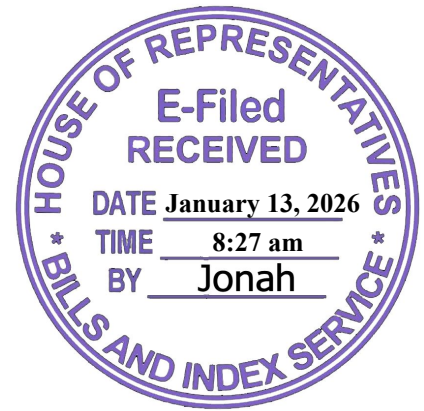




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
1st Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 7097



Introduced by Rep. Elisa “Olga” T. Kho

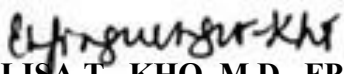
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay stands as the most fundamental political unit of the Philippines, serving as the primary planning and implementing arm of government programs and the venue for the amicable settlement of disputes. It is the first responder to the needs of the citizenry, yet for decades, the individuals at the helm of these units have been treated as mere volunteers or "honorary" workers. This proposed measure, entitled "The Magna Carta for Barangays," seeks to rectify this systemic neglect by providing barangay officials with the professional status, benefits, and administrative resources they rightfully deserve to serve their communities effectively.

The heart of this bill is the professionalization of local leadership. By classifying the *Punong Barangay*, *Sangguniang Barangay* members, *Sangguniang Kabataan* Chairpersons, and the Barangay Secretary and Treasurer as regular government employees, this bill acknowledges that their work is a full-time commitment to public service. Transitioning from a system of meager honoraria to fixed salaries under the Salary Standardization Law (SSL), along with granting access to GSIS insurance, health benefits, and retirement packages, ensures that our local leaders are economically secure. This stability is essential to insulate them from political patronage and corruption, allowing them to focus entirely on the welfare of their constituents.

This legislation also recognizes that empowerment must be paired with competence. The inclusion of a mandatory capacity-building program through the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) guarantees that officials are equipped with the latest skills in mediation, budgeting, and transparent governance. By institutionalizing these reforms, we are not just providing benefits to individuals; we are strengthening the very foundation of our democratic institutions. The passage of this bill is an investment in the grassroots, ensuring that the government's presence is felt most strongly where it matters most—in the hearts of our communities.

In view of the high sense of urgency to empower the basic unit of our society, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ELISA T. KHO, M.D., FPCCP



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AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS

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 Barangays."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote, develop, and improve the general welfare of the residents of the barangay, enhance their administrative capabilities, and provide them with the necessary resources to effectively perform their role as the primary planning and implementing unit of government programs.

SECTION 3. The Barangay Officials as Regular Government Employees. – The *Punong Barangay*, *Sangguniang Barangay* members, the Kabataan Chairpersons, the Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer shall be considered regular government employees. As such, they shall be entitled to:

- Fixed salaries based on the Salary Standardization Law (SSL).
- Insurance coverage (GSIS), medical and dental health benefits.
- Retirement benefits and other privileges enjoyed by regular government employees.

SECTION 4. Basic Services and Facilities. – All barangays shall be entitled to the following basic services and facilities to be funded by the National Government:

- Health: A functional health center with a permanent midwife and access to a doctor.
- Education: At least one (1) functional daycare center and a primary school within the jurisdiction.
- Utilities: Access to safe drinking water and a sustainable power supply.
- Security: A well-equipped barangay tanod brigade and a local outpost.

SECTION 5. Capacity Building. – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall establish a mandatory continuing education program for barangay officials to improve their skills in mediation, budgeting, and local governance.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the DILG, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, or administrative orders inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,