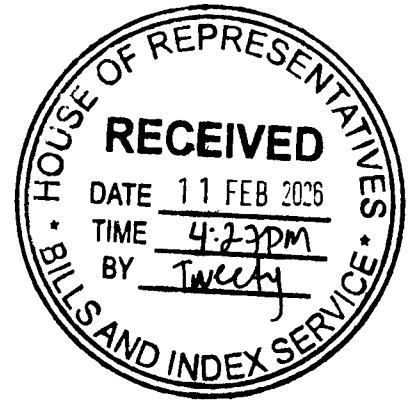


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

20th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7765



Introduced by Rep. Maria Vanessa C. Aumentado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Every year, thousands of Filipino rescuers and volunteers courageously respond to natural disasters, calamities, and emergencies often at great personal risk. Whether facing raging floods, fires, earthquakes, or other crises, these selfless men and women dedicate their time and energy to save lives, protect property, and restore communities.

Despite the vital role they play in disaster response and humanitarian assistance, many rescuers and volunteers operate without adequate protection, compensation, or insurance. In numerous instances, they sustain injuries or illnesses in the line of duty, yet lack access to proper medical care or financial assistance. The absence of a standardized hazard pay and comprehensive health insurance coverage exposes them to economic vulnerability and discourages public participation in volunteerism.

This bill seeks to institutionalize hazard pay and health insurance coverage for all registered rescuers and volunteers engaged in official disaster response and emergency operations. By granting hazard pay equivalent to at least twenty percent (20%) of their basic pay or its equivalent rate for volunteers this measure recognizes the inherent risks faced by these frontline responders.

Furthermore, this bill mandates automatic health insurance coverage under the

National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) administered by PhilHealth. The premium contributions for registered volunteers shall be fully subsidized by the national government, ensuring that no responder is left unprotected.

The proposed measure embodies the State's commitment to uphold the principles of social justice and human dignity. It acknowledges the sacrifices of those who stand at the forefront of danger and ensures that their welfare is secured through institutional and financial support.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MVA', is positioned above the printed name.

MARIA VANESSA C. AUMENTADO

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

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House Bill No. **7765**

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AN ACT
GRANTING HAZARD PAY AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ALL
REGISTERED RESCUERS AND VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED IN DISASTER
RESPONSE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

SECTION 1. *Short Title.*- This Act shall be known as the “Rescuers and Volunteers Protection and Benefits Act of 2025.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of individuals who risk their lives in the performance of humanitarian and life-saving work. Recognizing their invaluable service during disasters, emergencies, and crises, the State shall ensure that all registered rescuers and volunteers are provided with adequate hazard pay, health insurance coverage, and other necessary support mechanisms.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*

- (a) *Rescuers* – individuals employed or officially designated by government agencies, local government units (LGUs), or accredited non-government organizations (NGOs) who are engaged in search, rescue, and emergency response operations.
- (b) *Volunteers* – individuals who, without expectation of compensation, participate in disaster risk reduction, response, or recovery operations and are duly registered with authorized government or NGO offices.

(c) *Hazard Pay* – additional compensation given to rescuers and volunteers who are exposed to high-risk conditions during the performance of their duties.

(d) *Health Insurance* – refers to full medical and hospitalization coverage provided by the government through PhilHealth or any other accredited insurance provider.

SEC. 4. *Hazard Pay.*- All registered rescuers and volunteers actively participating in official emergency or disaster response operations shall be entitled to hazard pay equivalent to at least twenty percent (20%) without tax of their basic monthly pay or standard government rate for volunteers, for every month of active service during declared emergencies or calamities.

For volunteers, the corresponding hazard pay shall be computed based on the number of days served, in accordance with rates to be determined by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

SEC. 5. *Health Insurance Coverage.*- All registered rescuers and volunteers shall be automatically covered under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) administered by PhilHealth. The premium contributions for volunteers shall be fully subsidized by the national government. Additional coverage for accident insurance and disability benefits may be extended through coordination with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Social Security System (SSS), or accredited private insurers.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*- The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Local government units are likewise authorized to allocate funds from their Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (LDRRMF) for the payment of hazard pay and insurance premiums of registered rescuers and volunteers within their jurisdiction.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*- Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), PhilHealth, and DBM, in consultation with accredited volunteer organizations, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Penal Provision.*- Any official or agency head who knowingly fails to provide the mandated hazard pay or insurance benefits shall be held administratively and criminally liable under existing civil service laws and anti-graft statutes.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*- If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,