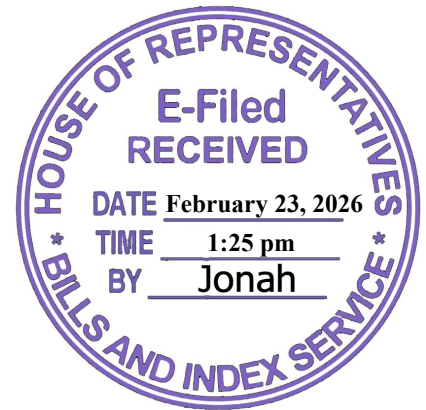


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 7931



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the first place people turn to when they need help from government. It handles everyday concerns like settling disputes, keeping peace and order, responding to emergencies, linking families to health and social services, and planning small but important community projects. Despite this heavy responsibility, many barangay officials work with low and uneven pay, limited benefits, and little protection. These gaps weaken their ability to serve the public well and put unnecessary strain on those who are closest to the people.

This bill proposes a Magna Carta for barangays and barangay officials to fix these long-standing problems. It brings together clear and fair rules on compensation, benefits, and protection, and sets minimum standards of support so barangays can stand on their own and function effectively. By strengthening barangays as self-reliant communities, the measure gives real meaning to local autonomy and ensures that when duties are given to barangays, the resources and support they need follow.

In simple terms, the bill aims to improve the lives and working conditions of barangay officials, standardize compensation to reduce unfair disparities, protect and professionalize barangay tanods, and ensure basic services and facilities reach every community. It also promotes steady and direct funding for barangays and encourages local development through jobs, scholarships, and small enterprises. Overall, this measure invests in stronger barangays, because when barangays are supported, public service becomes faster, fairer, and closer to the people.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 7931

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF BARANGAYS AND BARANGAY OFFICIALS

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 and Barangay Officials.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and protect the welfare of barangays and barangay officials, recognizing their indispensable role as front-liners in local governance, peace and order, and community development. The State shall ensure that barangay officials are afforded adequate compensation, benefits, capacity support, and protection to enable them to perform their duties effectively, uphold their dignity, and encourage dedicated public service at the grassroots level.

SECTION 3. General Principles. — The following shall guide the implementation of this Act:

- (a) The National Government shall give due attention to the development of barangays as the country’s basic political units;
- (b) Every barangay shall be strengthened with authority and capability to address local concerns at its level, consistent with local autonomy; and
- (c) Self-help and people participation shall be the guiding principles in barangay development initiatives.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- (a) “Barangay officials” refer to the Punong Barangay, members of the Sangguniang Barangay, Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer.
- (b) “Barangay tanods” refer to barangay-based community safety personnel appointed pursuant to Section 6 of this Act and performing peace and order functions within the barangay.

SECTION 5. Compensation and Benefits of Barangay Officials. —

- (a) Without prejudice to existing laws on the compensation of elective local officials, barangay officials shall receive compensation and benefits commensurate to their functions, including but not limited to salaries or honoraria, allowances, and social protection benefits as may be provided by law and applicable guidelines.
- (b) Barangay officials shall be entitled to benefits analogous to those received by government personnel, as may be allowed by existing laws and rules, including but not limited to: representation and transportation allowance (RATA), personnel economic relief allowance (PERA), productivity-based incentives, clothing or uniform allowance, mid-year and year-end benefits, and mandatory insurance coverage, subject to availability of funds and applicable accounting and auditing rules.

SECTION 6. Standardized Salary Rates of Barangay Officials. — Subject to the enactment of the necessary appropriation ordinances and the identification of lawful funding sources by the city or municipality concerned in coordination with the barangay, and in no case later than six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the following standardized rates shall apply:

- (a) Punong Barangay — an amount equivalent to the salary rate of a Sangguniang Bayan member of the municipality or city concerned;
- (b) Members of the Sangguniang Barangay — an amount equivalent to eighty percent (80%) of the salary rate of a Sangguniang Bayan member of the municipality or city concerned; and

- (c) Sangguniang Kabataan Chairperson, Barangay Secretary, and Barangay Treasurer — an amount equivalent to seventy-five percent (75%) of the salary rate of a Sangguniang Bayan member of the municipality or city concerned.

SECTION 7. Barangay Tanods: Organization, Appointment, Tenure, and Benefits. —

- (a) Organization. — There shall be barangay tanods in every barangay to assist in the maintenance of peace and order and in the enforcement of barangay ordinances and other applicable laws within the barangay. The Sangguniang Barangay shall, by resolution, determine the number of barangay tanods needed, subject to available funds and pertinent guidelines.
- (b) Appointment and Qualifications. — Barangay tanods shall be appointed by the Punong Barangay with the concurrence of the majority of all the members of the Sangguniang Barangay. No person shall be appointed barangay tanod unless he or she is:
 - (1) a citizen of the Philippines;
 - (2) a resident of the barangay concerned;
 - (3) of good moral character; and
 - (4) of sound mind. Patronage or partisan considerations shall not be a basis for selection and appointment.
- (c) Tenure. — Barangay tanods shall have a term co-terminus with the appointing Punong Barangay and Sangguniang Barangay, unless earlier removed for just cause and after due process.
- (d) Benefits and Privileges. — Barangay tanods shall receive the following, subject to funding and applicable rules:
 - (1) Honoraria, allowances, and other emoluments as may be authorized by law or by barangay, municipal, or city ordinance, but in no case less than Six hundred pesos (P600.00) per month;
 - (2) A Christmas bonus of at least One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) each, chargeable against the barangay general fund or such other funds as may be provided by the National Government for the purpose;

- (3) Insurance coverage including, but not limited to, temporary and permanent disability, double indemnity, accident insurance, death, and burial benefits;
- (4) Free medical care in any government hospital or institution, including necessary subsistence, medicines, and medical attendance, and including surgery, medicines, X-rays, laboratory fees, and other hospital expenses; and
- (5) Educational assistance, during incumbency, in the form of exemption from tuition and matriculation fees for legitimate dependent children in state universities and colleges (SUCs), subject to applicable SUC admission and residency policies. The barangay tanod may likewise avail of such educational benefit in an SUC within the province or city to which the barangay belongs.

SECTION 8. Minimum Access to Safe Drinking Water. — It is the policy of the State that every barangay should have regular access to clean and potable water. For this purpose, every city or municipality, as the case may be, shall include in its local development and investment plans the construction, rehabilitation, or maintenance of drinking-water facilities reasonably sufficient to serve barangay residents, subject to national standards and available funds.

SECTION 9. Minimum Access to Public Transportation. — Every city or municipality, as the case may be, shall, in coordination with appropriate agencies, endeavor to ensure the availability of public transportation servicing each barangay at least once a day, subject to route feasibility, safety, and applicable regulatory standards.

SECTION 10. Basic Facilities: Schools, Health Center, and Barangay Hall. — As far as practicable and consistent with national standards and available funds:

- (a) Every barangay shall be provided with at least one (1) kindergarten and at least one (1) elementary school; and
- (b) Each barangay shall be entitled to one (1) health center and one (1) barangay hall. For secondary education, the National Government and local government units shall plan access so that a high school is reasonably accessible to barangay residents, consistent with the education sector plan.

SECTION 11. Direct and Automatic Release of Barangay Share from national Taxes. — The share of barangays from national taxes, as may be provided under existing laws, shall be released directly to the barangay treasurer in accordance with the applicable budgeting, cash programming, accounting, and auditing rules.

SECTION 12. Transfer of Funds for Barangay Roads and Bridges. — Public funds appropriated from the National Treasury for the maintenance of barangay roads and bridges and similar works intended for barangay-level implementation shall be transferred or remitted in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and shall be subject to auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 13. Share of Barangays in Certain Local Collections. —

- (a) A portion of real property taxes collected on real property located within the barangay shall accrue to the barangay, in the percentages and manner provided by existing laws.
- (b) The barangay shall likewise receive a share in other local taxes, fees, and charges collected within its territorial jurisdiction, as may be provided by existing laws and ordinances.

SECTION 14. Equitable Share from Proceeds of Utilization and Development of National Wealth. — For the exploitation, utilization, and development of natural resources within its territorial jurisdiction, every barangay shall be entitled to an equitable share in the proceeds derived therefrom, in accordance with existing laws. The city or municipality concerned shall conduct consultations with affected barangays and relevant stakeholders to determine the equitable allocation, taking into account exposure to pollution, flood risks, and ecological impacts, subject to applicable laws and regulations.

SECTION 15. Barangay Scholarship Grant. — Every barangay shall endeavor to sponsor at least one (1) college scholarship grant every year, subject to availability of funds. The scholarship shall be awarded by a committee of five (5) persons designated by the Sangguniang Barangay with the approval of the Punong Barangay, through a transparent and competitive process. Priority shall be given to bona fide barangay residents. The grant may include tuition and other school fees, and reasonable allowances for books, supplies, transportation, and other expenses, as may be determined by the barangay.

SECTION 16. Priority in Employment for Barangay Residents. — Residents of the barangay shall be given priority, consistent with applicable laws and civil service rules, in the hiring of workers and laborers needed for government-funded construction or development projects within the barangay.

SECTION 17. Cooperative Enterprises. — The establishment and organization of cooperative enterprises in the barangay shall be encouraged. Barangays shall extend assistance, within their powers and resources, to strengthen cooperative undertakings as part of local economic development.

SECTION 18. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The IRR shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

SECTION 19. Appropriations — The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and, where applicable, in the annual budgets of local government units, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws and rules.

SECTION 20. Penal Provision. — Any person who shall willfully interfere with, restrain, or coerce any barangay official or barangay resident in the exercise of the rights guaranteed by this Act, or who shall in any manner commit any act to defeat any of the provisions of this Act, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than Five hundred pesos (P500.00) nor more than Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00), or by imprisonment of not less than one (1) month nor more than six (6) months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 15. 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.

SECTION 16. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 17. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,