



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **8264**

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE GERALD CLOYD ALEXIS V. GALANG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Barangay, as our fundamental unit of local governance, stands as the vital bridge connecting national policies with the everyday lives of our communities. These dedicated public servants work tirelessly at the grassroots level, serving as the frontline implementers of essential government services in health, education, and public welfare. They embody the true spirit of public service, acting as the crucial link between the state and the people they serve.

Recognizing the importance of local governance, the 1987 Philippine Constitution and the subsequent Local Government Code established a framework for decentralized power. A landmark ruling, the *Mandanas-Garcia* decision, further strengthened this by increasing financial resources for local governments. This empowerment is crucial, as it allows Barangays to better serve their communities with the resources they need.

Tragically, despite their indispensable role, Barangay officials are frequently overlooked and underappreciated, highlighting a systemic issue in our governance. The State needs to acknowledge its dedication beyond mere financial compensation. By actively recognizing and valuing their contributions, we can cultivate a culture of integrity and service. Honoring their sacrifices is not just a gesture of gratitude; it is a crucial step towards combating corruption, empowering our local leaders, and ensuring that essential services reach the people who need them most.

Therefore, the swift passage of this bill is not just a procedural matter; it's an expression of our commitment to supporting those who work tirelessly to improve our communities at the most fundamental level of our democracy.


GERALD GALANG
2nd Legislative District, City of Valenzuela



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AN ACT

INCREASING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS, AMENDING PARAGRAPH (B), SECTION 393, CHAPTER IV, TITLE I, BOOK III OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (b), Section 393, Chapter IV, Title I, Book III of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 393. *Benefits of Barangay Officials.* -

- a) xxx
- (b) The punong barangay, the sangguniang barangay members, the barangay treasurer, and the barangay secretary shall also:
 - 1) xxx
 - 2) xxx
 - xxx
 - 6) Be enrolled in the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to avail of the retirement, disability, funeral, and other benefits that GSIS employees of the same rank are entitled to.
 - 7) Be enrolled in the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to be able to access personal health services.

SEC. 2. *Appropriations.* - The necessary funds shall primarily come from the current appropriations of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). If the available allocation is insufficient, the shortfall will be covered by the National Government through the Annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretaries of the DILG and DBM, in coordination with the GSIS and PhilHealth, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,