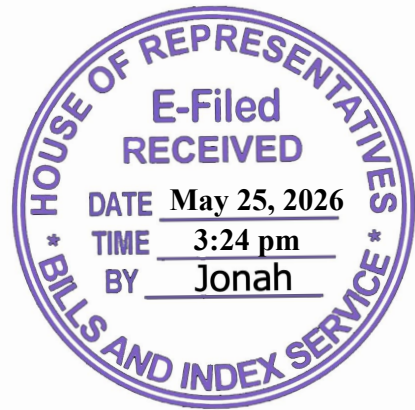


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9404



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Introduced by REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution states that the State shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to health and instill health consciousness among them. It also states that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make health and other social services available to all people. These principles were codified through the enactment of Republic Act No. 11223, otherwise known as the Universal Health Care Act. The law endeavors to ensure that all Filipinos are guaranteed equitable access to quality and affordable health care services.

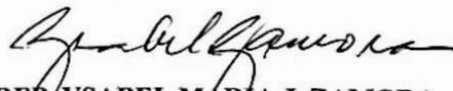
Despite the passage of the Universal Health Care Act, there remains a significant disparity between policy and practice in the delivery of health care services, particularly in geographically isolated areas. While the law envisions for every local government unit to ensure that a primary care provider is accessible to every Filipino, the reality is that many of these areas or barangays remain distant from health care facilities and lack health care professionals who can provide health care services.

The proposed measure aims to bridge this gap through the deployment of at least one (1) registered nurse to every unserved or underserved barangay. By ensuring that a health care professional is available in these areas, the measure accomplishes the following:

- Promotes population-based health care
- Empowers the individual to make informed health care decisions
- Promotes data-driven governance

Through the deployment of professionals at the frontlines, health service delivery is decentralized. The measure provides a structural change in our system. It fosters a culture within the community which considers health and wellness as a priority.

In view of the foregoing, I recommend the immediate passage of this bill.

  
REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA  
Lone District, City of San Juan

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
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**HOUSE BILL NO. 9404**

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**Introduced by REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES, ASSIGNING AT LEAST ONE**  
**REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY UNSERVED OR UNDERSERVED BARANGAY IN**  
**THE PHILIPPINES, 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 "Nurses to the Barangay Act of 2026."

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies.** - The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare. Towards this end, it is further declared the policy of the State to promote a sustained and cultivated reservoir of national talents, preserving the skills and aptitude of our trained professionals, particularly our nurses, through the utilization and maximization of their medical knowledge that will likewise help promote the right of the people to health, thereby achieving the realization of a healthy and productive citizenry.

**SEC. 3. Program of the Employment of Nurses in Every Unserved or Underserved Barangay.** - There is hereby established a Program for the Employment of Nurses in every unserved or underserved barangay, for the purpose of improving the delivery of public health care services, to the unserved or underserved barangays in rural areas as well as underprivileged communities in the urban areas, while providing gainful employment to registered nurses and utilizing their professional competencies.

**SEC. 4. Role of Local Government Units.** - Each local government unit is mandated to identify barangays that are unserved or underserved by health care service and employ one (1) registered nurse for these barangays within their jurisdiction.

**SEC. 5. Recruitment, Selection, and Training.** - The local government units shall secure the assistance of the Department of Health in recruiting, selecting, and in training the registered nurses to ensure the capability of the nurses in addressing the public health and wellness concerns of the barangays.

For this purpose, the Department of Health is hereby mandated to issue guidelines setting the qualifications of nurses to be deployed to the barangays as well as come up with a module for the relevant training of these nurses. The guidelines to be set shall in no case discriminate against the hiring of fresh graduates or newly passed registered nurses.

**SEC. 6. Minimum Qualification of Nurses.** - Nurses engaged under the program shall have the following minimum qualifications: must have a valid RN license issued by the Professional Regulatory Commission; must be willing to relocate to its assigned area, even temporarily; and must have passion for public health concerns.

**SEC. 7. Stipend.** - Nurses employed under the program shall be entitled to a monthly stipend preferably equal to Salary Grade 15, consistent with the mandatory minimum entry-level pay for government nurses under the Philippine Nursing Act of 24, 2002 or Republic Act No. 9173.

**SEC. 8. Duties.** - Nurses under this program are required to provide an annual health status report regarding the average health and wellness of the barangay and must provide suggestions to the local government units to improve the health and wellness of all citizens of the barangay. Each deployed nurse shall render information dissemination on disease prevention, basic maternal and obstetric care, pre-natal and post-natal care, teen-age pregnancy counselling, family planning and reproductive health education, nutrition, HIV/AIDS prevention, registration of live births and educate barangay residents on all other important information on health, hygiene, sanitation, and wellness.

**SEC. 9. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary to implement the program under this Act shall be initially appropriated out of the funds of the respective local government units. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the full implementation of this program shall be included in the respective budget of the local government units.

**SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty days (60) from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and DOH shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 11. Separability Cause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

**SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 13. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*