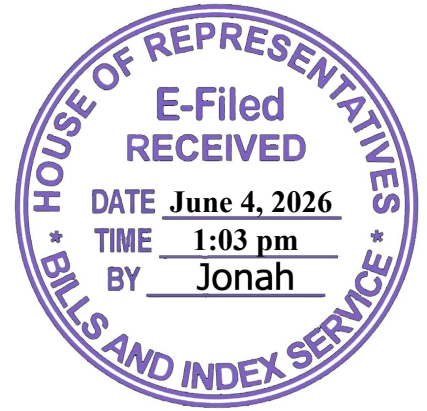


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9800



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
RATIONALIZING THE BARANGAY NEWLY-ELECTED OFFICIALS (BNEO)
PROGRAM BY LIMITING MANDATORY PARTICIPATION TO FIRST-TIME ELECTED
AND NEWLY APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the government unit closest to the people and serves as the primary frontline provider of public services in every community. To perform their duties effectively, barangay officials must be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills in governance, planning, financial management, and accountability. For this purpose, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) requires participation in the Barangay Newly-Elected Officials (BNEO) Program, which provides basic orientation and training for barangay officials.

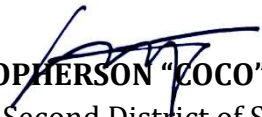
While the BNEO Program remains an important tool for capacity-building, requiring all elected officials to repeatedly attend the same basic orientation, even those who have previously served and completed similar trainings, results in unnecessary and duplicative expenditures. These costs, which are borne by barangay funds, could otherwise be used to support essential programs, projects, and services that directly benefit local communities.

This bill seeks to rationalize the implementation of the BNEO Program by limiting mandatory participation in the Basic Orientation Course to first-time elected barangay officials and newly appointed officials who have not previously served in an elective barangay position. It likewise directs the DILG to recognize prior completion

of substantially similar training programs to prevent repetitive training requirements, unless additional or updated learning is necessary.

By focusing resources on officials who genuinely need foundational training, this measure promotes more efficient use of public funds, avoids unnecessary expenses, and strengthens the professionalization of barangay governance.

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


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

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AN ACT

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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 “***BNEO Rationalization Act of 2026.***”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote efficient, economical, and effective local governance by ensuring that capacity development programs for barangay officials are **targeted to those who need foundational orientation**, while avoiding unnecessary or duplicative training expenses chargeable to barangay funds, consistent with the Local Government Code of 1991.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- (a) **BNEO Program** — the Barangay Newly-Elected Officials program or its successor capacity development program for barangay officials as designed and implemented by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), through the Local Government Academy (LGA) and other partner agencies;

- (b) **First-time elected barangay official** — a person who is elected for the first time to any of the following barangay elective positions: Punong Barangay or Sangguniang Barangay Member;
- (c) **Newly appointed barangay official** — a person who is appointed to fill a vacancy in an elective barangay position, who has not previously served in any elective barangay position;
- (d) **Returning barangay official** — a person who has previously served as an elective barangay official, whether immediately preceding the current term or in any prior term, and is elected again to any elective barangay position;
- (e) **Basic Orientation Course** — the foundational module(s) of the BNEO Program intended to orient officials on barangay governance, roles, and core legal/administrative responsibilities.

SECTION 4. Mandatory Coverage; Limitation to First-Timers. —

(a) Mandatory participation in the Basic Orientation Course of the BNEO Program shall apply only to:

1. First-time elected barangay officials; and
2. Newly appointed barangay officials.

(b) **Returning barangay officials shall not be required** to undergo the Basic Orientation Course as a condition for the performance of their functions, access to barangay funds, or eligibility for any benefit or recognition program of DILG or any national government agency.

(c) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to prohibit returning barangay officials from voluntarily enrolling in the Basic Orientation Course or other BNEO modules, subject to Section 5.

SECTION 5. Rules on Funding and Chargeability of Expenses. —

(a) Expenses for the conduct of the BNEO Basic Orientation Course for covered officials under Section 4(a) may be charged against:

1. Appropriate barangay funds, subject to applicable budgeting and auditing rules; and/or
 2. Augmentation support from the city/municipal government or other lawful sources, consistent with DILG guidance on on-site conduct and cost efficiency.
- (b) For returning barangay officials who voluntarily enroll, expenses chargeable against barangay funds shall be **limited to actual, necessary, and reasonable costs**, and shall be subject to the prioritization of basic services and programs under existing law.
- (c) The DILG shall ensure that the Basic Orientation Course is designed and delivered in a manner that minimizes costs, including, where practicable:
1. Conducting trainings on-site within the city/municipality; and
 2. Allowing blended, modular, or other cost-reducing delivery modes consistent with training effectiveness.

SECTION 6. Standardized Equivalency and Recognition of Prior Training. —

- (a) The DILG shall establish an **equivalency mechanism** recognizing prior completion of any substantially similar barangay governance orientation course administered or accredited by the DILG/LGA, for purposes of compliance with Section 4(a).
- (b) A barangay official who has previously completed the Basic Orientation Course (or its equivalent) shall not be required to repeat the same course, unless the DILG determines that substantial program changes justify a short bridging module.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, through the LGA, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. 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 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, memorandum circulars, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,