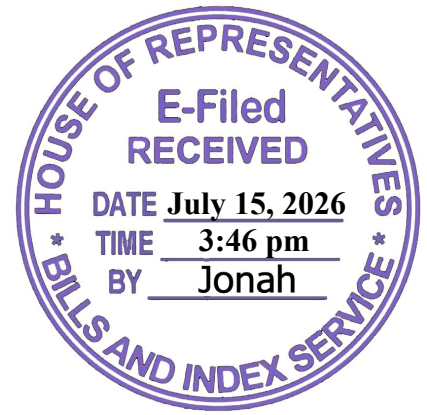


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 10090



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a Barangay Nutrition Worker position in every barangay in the country. It institutionalizes a dedicated personnel for nutrition promotion, disease prevention, and child development, and shall strengthen the delivery of community-based nutrition services.

The Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) reported that the stunting rate among children under five (5) years old has reached twenty-five percent (25%). This represents one (1) in four (4) children in the country. This is the first increase in a decade and classified malnutrition and stunting as a high public health concern. These conditions impair physical growth, cognitive development, educational attainment while imposing long-term social and economic costs.

Despite the enactment of Presidential Decree No. 1569, entitled "*Strengthening the Barangay Nutrition Program by Providing for a Barangay Nutrition Scholar in Every Barangay, Providing Funds Therefor, and For Other Purposes*", its reliance on a purely volunteer framework with token incentives has proven insufficient against the current economic landscape and increasing public health challenges of the country. Nearly five (5) decades after its implementation, the evolving gravity of our nutritional crisis demands the transition to a volunteer system into a professional and properly compensated workforce.

Although nutrition programs exist at the national and local level, their implementation is often impeded by the absence of personnel exclusively tasked to oversee nutrition interventions in the community. This bill requires every barangay to appoint a qualified Barangay Nutrition Worker and establishes standards for recruitment, training, supervision, benefits and incentives. It also ensures that each community has trained personnel dedicated to nutrition-related services and interventions.

Strengthening the nutrition workforce at the barangay level is an investment to public health and human capital. Placing a barangay nutrition worker in every barangay shall improve access to essential nutrition services, support healthier communities, and contribute to the reduction of malnutrition nationwide.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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House Bill No. **10090**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
CREATING THE POSITION OF BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER IN
EVERY BARANGAY, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THERETO, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 “*Barangay Nutrition Worker Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State recognizes that proper nutrition is fundamental to human development and poverty reduction, and shall recommend policies to address threats of malnutrition and stunting. Towards this end, there shall be appointed a Barangay Nutrition Worker in every barangay to ensure that essential nutrition services are delivered efficiently at the local level.

SEC. 3. *Barangay Nutrition Worker.* – The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the concurrence of the majority of all Sangguniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlungsod Members, and the Sangguniang Barangay concerned. The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be responsible for delivering nutrition services and other related activities such as community health, backyard food production, environmental sanitation, culture, supplemental feeding, and responsible parenthood to the barangay.

SEC. 4. *Services.* – The Barangay Nutrition Worker, while undergoing training under the Barangay Nutrition Program, shall serve the barangay on a voluntary basis for at least six (6) months. Thereafter, the NNC shall assess his or her performance and make the necessary recommendation for his or her appointment.

SEC. 5. *Qualifications.* – The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall possess the following qualifications:

- a. A Filipino citizen and a bona fide resident of the barangay for at least one (1) year;
- b. Able to communicate effectively in the local language of the community;
- c. At least eighteen (18) years old, but not more than sixty (60) years old;
- d. At least a graduate of senior high school, or its equivalent under the Alternative Learning, as provided under Republic Act No. 11510, otherwise known as the “*Alternative Learning System Act*”; and
- e. Mentally and physically fit to perform the duties of the position, as certified by a licensed government physician.

SEC. 6. *Recruitment.* – The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be recruited from within the barangay and shall be tested on the basis of mental ability and work aptitude.

SEC. 7. *Training.* – Before actual barangay service, the Barangay Nutrition Worker shall undergo appropriate and sufficient training on selected topics, such as nutrition, health, food production, and environmental sanitation, based on defined task expectations to be conducted by a provincial training team in coordination with the municipal and barangay nutrition committee. This training shall be supplemented by a practicum to be conducted in the barangay where the worker is assigned, and such activity shall be in coordination with the local training team.

SEC. 8. *Benefits.* – The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be entitled to a training stipend, meal, and travel allowance of at least Three hundred pesos (Php 300.00) per day. During the period of volunteer service prior to his or her appointment, the Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be entitled to an allowance of Five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00) every month.

The Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be granted a civil service eligibility equivalent to second grade after the completion of at least two (2) years of continuous and satisfactory service in the barangay.

SEC. 9. *Incentives.* – To further enhance the nutrition program, the NNC, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education, shall formulate a scholarship program where incumbent and deserving barangay nutrition

workers shall be given the opportunity to avail of a scholarship grant in any state college or university and pursue a course relevant to his or her present position.

SEC. 10. *Nutrition Committees.* – The organization of local nutrition committees and the implementation of their respective nutrition program shall be the responsibility of the provincial/city nutrition committee headed by the Governor/ Mayor as Chairman, and a municipal nutrition committee headed by the Mayor as Chairman.

SEC. 11. *Local Training Team.* – The local training team of the municipality or city shall be composed of two (2) members chosen from among the members of the municipal or city nutrition committee. This team shall follow up the activities of the trained Barangay Nutrition Worker.

SEC. 12. *Role of the Mayor.* – The Municipal or City Mayor shall initiate activities to implement the nutrition program within the municipality or city and organize the local training teams, and may recommend the appropriation by the municipality or city of a local counterpart in the form of additional allowance for the Barangay Nutrition Worker.

SEC. 13. *Barangay Nutrition Workers Staff Secretariat.* – There shall be a staff secretariat in every province or city which shall monitor the program, identify its problems, and recommend possible solutions thereto.

SEC. 14. *Role of the National Nutrition Council.* – The NNC shall formulate rules and regulations, plans and programs within the limits set forth in this Act, and allocate the funds to the various provinces and/or agencies for disbursement in accordance with the financial plan of the Barangay Nutrition Program.

SEC. 15. *Donations.* – For purposes of this Program, the NNC and local government units are authorized to receive grants, donations, gifts, or bequests from various government agencies and government corporations which shall be tax exempt.

SEC. 16. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act is hereby appropriated from any available funds in the National Treasury or from the Special Activities Fund, and authorized to be released. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

LGUs are likewise authorized to appropriate such amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act: *Provided*, That the city or municipality shall appropriate as part of its annual budget for personal services the necessary amount of Five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00) per month, per Barangay Nutrition Worker: *Provided, further*, That third- to fifth-class municipalities shall

appropriate Two thousand pesos (Php 2,000.00) per month, per Barangay Nutrition Worker. The difference in the Five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00) monthly allowance per Barangay Nutrition Worker shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 19. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,