

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **10816**



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the basic political unit of the country and serves as the primary venue for the delivery of government services and the implementation of programs at the community level. Barangay officials and other barangay frontliners are often the first to respond to emergencies, maintain peace and order, assist in disaster response, facilitate community programs, and address the immediate needs and concerns of their constituents.

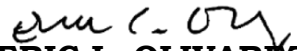
These responsibilities expose them to various risks, including death, permanent disability, and injuries arising from accidents in the course of performing their duties. While Republic Act No. 6942, otherwise known as the “Act Increasing the Insurance Benefits of Local Government Officials and Providing Funds Therefor,” provides insurance coverage to certain local officials, its coverage does not adequately extend to other barangay personnel who likewise perform essential frontline functions in their communities. The benefits provided under the law likewise require enhancement in view of present economic conditions and the increasing costs associated with death, disability, hospitalization, and medical care.

This measure therefore seeks to expand the coverage of Republic Act No. 6942 to include barangay tanods, barangay health workers, barangay day care workers, and members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, and to increase the death, disability, and accident insurance benefits available to covered personnel.

The measure further provides for the corresponding payment of insurance premiums based on the actual number of covered personnel, subject to annual appropriations and periodic actuarial assessment by the Government Service Insurance System to ensure the sustainability and adequacy of the insurance program.

Through this measure, the State recognizes the invaluable contribution of barangay officials and other barangay frontliners and seeks to provide them and their families with greater financial protection against the risks attendant to the performance of their public service.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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**“AN ACT
PROVIDING DEATH, DISABILITY, AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE
COVERAGE TO OTHER BARANGAY OFFICIALS, BARANGAY
TANODS, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, BARANGAY DAY
CARE WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPONG
TAGAPAMAYAPA, AND INCREASING THE INSURANCE
BENEFITS PROVIDED THEREIN, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6942 AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”**

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 6942, otherwise known as the
“Act Increasing the Insurance Benefits of Local Government Officials and
Providing Funds Therefor,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 1. Coverage of the Act. – Every Punong
Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay member, Sangguniang Kabataan
Chairman, barangay secretary, barangay treasurer, barangay
tanod, barangay health worker, barangay day care worker, and
member of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, and every member of the
Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and
Sangguniang Bayan, duly elected, appointed, designated, or
otherwise qualified under existing laws, shall be automatically
covered by this Act during his or her incumbency, appointment,
designation, or period of authorized service, as the case may be,
subject to the provisions herein.

“Provided, That the coverage of an elected or appointed official
shall cease upon the expiration, termination, or lawful cessation of
his or her term or appointment, or upon receipt of a fixed salary in
the same capacity or by virtue of a permanent appointment in
another government office or election or appointment to another
public office, in which case he or she shall thereafter be covered
under the appropriate law.

“Provided, further, That barangay tanods, barangay health workers, barangay day care workers, and members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa shall be covered during the period of their duly recognized appointment, designation, or service in the barangay.

“Any covered person whose coverage ceases by reason of lawful termination, resignation, expiration of term, or cessation of appointment or designation may, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Government Service Insurance System, continue such coverage by paying the required premiums therefor.”

SECTION 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. Death and Burial Benefits. – In the event of death of an insured person during his or her period of coverage, the beneficiaries of a Punong Barangay or a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Barangay, or Sangguniang Kabataan shall be entitled to **Forty Thousand Pesos (P40,000.00)**, while the beneficiaries of a barangay secretary, barangay treasurer, barangay tanod, barangay health worker, barangay day care worker, or member of the Lupong Tagapamayapa shall be entitled to **Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)**.

“In addition to the death benefits herein provided, a burial benefit of **Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00)** shall be paid to the beneficiaries within twenty-four (24) hours after written notice and satisfactory proof of death.

“Should any covered person be assassinated or killed while in the performance of official duties or on the occasion thereof, his or her beneficiaries shall be entitled to double the applicable amount of indemnity provided under this Section.”

SECTION 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. Total and Permanent Incapacity or Disability. – In the event of total and permanent incapacity or disability, as determined by the Government Service Insurance System, hereinafter referred to as the System, a Punong Barangay or a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Barangay, or Sangguniang Kabataan shall be entitled to **Twenty-Four Thousand Pesos (P24,000.00)**, while a barangay secretary, barangay treasurer, barangay tanod, barangay health worker, barangay day care worker, or member of the Lupong Tagapamayapa shall be entitled to **Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)**:

“Provided, That the disability occurred during the period of coverage, whether work-connected or not.

“In addition to the disability benefits herein provided, a burial benefit of **Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00)** shall be paid to the beneficiaries in the event that death occurs within two (2) years from the onset of total and permanent incapacity or disability.

“Anyone availing of the benefits under this Section shall not be entitled to the benefits under Sections Two, Four, and Five hereof for the same contingency.”

SECTION 4. Paragraph 1 of Section 4 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Injuries Resulting from Accidents. – For injuries resulting from an accident occurring during the period of coverage, whether work-connected or not, a Punong Barangay or a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Barangay, or Sangguniang Kabataan shall be entitled to the following benefits, which in no case shall exceed the maximum benefit of **Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)** per covered year:

“(a) For an injury to the brain resulting in the loss of sanity, Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00);

“(b) For permanent loss of sight in both eyes, Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00);

“(c) For permanent loss of sense of hearing in both ears, Sixteen Thousand Pesos (P16,000.00);

“(d) For permanent loss of sight in one eye, Nine Thousand Pesos (P9,000.00);

“(e) For permanent loss of sense of smell and sense of taste, and of hearing in one ear, Eight Thousand Pesos (P8,000.00);

“(f) For the loss or destruction of two or more limbs, Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00);

“(g) For the loss of one limb, Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00);

“(h) For the loss or destruction of both hands at or above the wrists, Sixteen Thousand Pesos (P16,000.00);

“(i) For the loss or destruction of both feet at or above the ankles, Sixteen Thousand Pesos (P16,000.00);

“(j) For the loss or destruction of one hand at or above the wrist, Eight Thousand Pesos (₱8,000.00);

“(k) For the loss or destruction of one foot at or above the ankle, Eight Thousand Pesos (₱8,000.00);

“(l) For the loss or destruction of every thumb or great toe, Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00);

“(m) For the loss or destruction of every finger or toe, One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00);

“(n) For any other injury requiring hospitalization of at least forty (40) days, Four Thousand Pesos (₱4,000.00), and in cases where hospitalization is less than forty (40) days, at such amount not exceeding Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) as determined by the System and prescribed in its rules and regulations; and

“(o) For any other injury not requiring hospitalization but requiring medical attention for at least fifteen (15) days, Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00), and in cases where the medical attention extended is less than fifteen (15) days, at such amount not exceeding One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00) as determined by the System and prescribed in its rules and regulations.”

SECTION 5. Paragraph 1 of Section 5 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. Injuries Resulting from Accident of Other Barangay Officials and Personnel. – For injuries resulting from an accident occurring during the period of coverage, whether work-connected or not, a barangay secretary, barangay treasurer, barangay tanod, barangay health worker, barangay day care worker, or member of the Lupong Tagapamayapa shall be entitled to the following benefits, which in no case shall exceed the maximum benefit of **Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00)** per covered year:

“(a) For an injury to the brain resulting in the loss of sanity, Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00);

“(b) For permanent loss of sight in both eyes, Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00);

“(c) For permanent loss of sense of hearing in both ears, Eight Thousand Pesos (₱8,000.00);

“(d) For permanent loss of sight in one eye, Six Thousand Pesos (₱6,000.00);

“(e) For permanent loss of sense of hearing in one ear, Four Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱4,500.00);

“(f) For the loss or destruction of two or more limbs, Ten Thousand Pesos (₱10,000.00);

“(g) For the loss of one limb, Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00);

“(h) For the loss or destruction of both hands at or above the wrists, Nine Thousand Pesos (₱9,000.00);

“(i) For the loss or destruction of both feet at or above the ankles, Nine Thousand Pesos (₱9,000.00);

“(j) For the loss or destruction of one hand at or above the wrist, Four Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱4,500.00);

“(k) For the loss or destruction of one foot at or above the ankle, Four Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (₱4,500.00);

“(l) For the loss or destruction of every thumb or great toe, Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00);

“(m) For the loss or destruction of every finger or toe, One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00);

“(n) For any other injury requiring hospitalization of at least forty (40) days, Four Thousand Pesos (₱4,000.00), and in cases where hospitalization is less than forty (40) days, at such amount not exceeding Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) as determined by the System and prescribed in its rules and regulations; and

“(o) For any other injury not requiring hospitalization but requiring medical attention for at least seven (7) days, One Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (₱1,200.00).”

SECTION 6. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6. Responsibility for Payment of Premiums. – For all insurance benefits provided under this Act, the National Government shall appropriate annually and include in the General Appropriations Act the total annual premiums based on the actual number of covered Punong Barangays, members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Barangay, and Sangguniang Kabataan, as certified by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

“For barangay secretaries, barangay treasurers, barangay tanods, barangay health workers, barangay day care workers, and members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, the total annual premiums shall be included in the annual budget of the barangay concerned, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules and regulations and to the availability of funds.

“The annual premiums shall be Two Hundred Forty-Seven Pesos (P247.00) for every Punong Barangay and member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Barangay, and Sangguniang Kabataan, and Sixty-Two Pesos (P62.00) for every barangay secretary, barangay treasurer, barangay tanod, barangay health worker, barangay day care worker, and member of the Lupong Tagapamayapa.

“The System shall conduct periodic actuarial studies to determine the adequacy of the premium rates in relation to the benefits and coverage provided under this Act. Based on such actuarial studies, the premium rates may be adjusted, subject to the approval of the appropriate authorities and the availability of appropriations.

“The total annual premiums shall be released to the System in accordance with the General Appropriations Act and the applicable annual budgets of the barangays concerned. Any failure or delay in the payment of premiums shall not prejudice the right of a covered person or his or her beneficiaries to avail of the benefits under this Act, subject to the implementing rules and regulations.”

SECTION 7. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 8. Processing of Claims. – All claims for payment pursuant to the provisions of this Act shall, with the assistance of the DILG, the concerned local government unit, or other appropriate government office, be processed and settled by the System within thirty (30) days from submission of all required documents, at the nearest System branch or through such other mechanisms as may be authorized by the System.

“The System shall adopt simplified documentary and processing requirements, particularly for beneficiaries of deceased covered persons and for covered personnel residing in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas.”

SECTION 8. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 6942 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the System, in coordination with the DILG, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Finance (DOF), and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

“The implementing rules and regulations shall, among others, prescribe the documentary requirements, procedures for enrollment and certification of covered personnel, payment and remittance of premiums, processing of claims, determination of disability, and coordination between the System, the DILG, and the concerned local government units.”

SECTION 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its effectivity and thereafter. The corresponding appropriations of local government units shall be included in their annual budgets, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, issuances, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.