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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 261

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

AN ACT
TO EXPAND THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS TO INCLUDE
BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF
1991, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

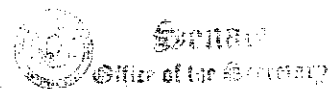
According to the Bureau of Local Health Development of the Department of Health, there are 196,562 Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) in 2009. BHWs according to Republic Act No. 7883 or the Barangay Health Workers Benefits and Incentives Acts of 1995 "refers to a person who has undergone training programs under any accredited government and non-government organization and who voluntarily renders primarily health care services in the community after having been accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH)."

Republic Act No. 7883, which promotes the rights of BHWs, entitles them to hazard and subsistence allowance, training programs, civil service eligibility, free legal services, and access to loan services. However, the law has not provided a fixed rate for the allowances for BHWs. Hence, twenty-four (24) years after Republic Act No. 7883 was enacted, BHWs around the country receive uneven allowances while providing primary health care, as well as acting as health educators and community organizers in their local communities.

Therefore, this proposed legislation seeks to adopt measures to ensure the welfare of BHWs by expanding the benefits and incentives of barangay officials to include them. A version of this bill was filed by Senator Binay in the 17th Congress.

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


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1991, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Barangay Health Workers Act of*
2 2019."

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt
4 measures to ensure the welfare of Barangay Health Workers. Towards this end, the State
5 shall expand the benefits and incentives of Barangay Officials to include Barangay Health
6 Workers.

7 **SEC. 3.** Section 393, paragraphs (a) and (b) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise
8 known as the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended
9 to read as follows:

10 "SECTION 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials - (a) Barangay officials, including
11 barangay tanods and members of the lupong tagapamayapa, shall receive
12 honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments as may be authorized by law or
13 barangay, municipal, or city ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this
14 Code, but in no case shall it be less than one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) per month
15 for the punong barangay and six hundred (P600.00) per month for the sangguniang

1 barangay members, barangay treasurer, [and] barangay secretary AND
2 **BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS:**

3 Provided, however, That the annual appropriations for personal services shall be
4 subject to the budgetary limitations prescribed under Title Five, Book II of this Code;

5 **PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS**
6 **CODE SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE APPLICATION OF AND**
7 **ENTITLEMENT TO OTHER INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY**
8 **OFFICIALS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW SUCH AS REPUBLIC ACT NO.**
9 **6942 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**
10 **BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT.**

11 (b) The punong barangay, the sangguniang barangay members, the barangay
12 treasurer, [and] the barangay secretary **AND THE BARANGAY HEALTH**
13 **WORKER** shall also:

14 X X X.”

15 **SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
16 approval of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in
17 coordination with the Civil Service Commission, shall promulgate the rules and
18 regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

19 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
20 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full
21 force and effect.

22 **SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and
23 rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended
24 accordingly.

25 **SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,