

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3511



Introduced by Representative Sol Aragones

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to available data, there are only 0.2 physicians, 0.4 nurses, and 1.7 midwives for every 10,000 members of the population in the Philippines. These numbers are ten times less than the recommended ratio set by the World Health Organization. Because of the dwindling number of health workers in the Philippines, the Barangay Health Workers have become such an important contributor to help mitigate the lack of workforce in the health sector. These Barangay Health Workers are being utilized more and more in order to provide health services in rural and remote areas. However, there exists no measure that ensures that all Barangays are covered.

It is the role of the State to find the means to deliver health services and its accessibility. Thus, it is our imperative duty as legislators to ensure the full and functional delivery of health services for the whole country, in order to comply with the mandate of the 1987 Philippine Constitution that guarantees the protection and promotion of the health of its citizens.

This proposed measure shall provide at least one (1) Barangay Health Worker in every barangay throughout the country after proper accreditation with the local health board. Furthermore, barangay health workers will be entitled to allowances and other benefits accorded to appointed barangay officials. More importantly, our faithful barangay health workers will be accorded with security of tenure.

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


SOL ARAGONES
3RD District, Laguna

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House Bill No. **3511**

Introduced by Representative Sol Aragon

1 **AN ACT**
2 **MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN**
3 **EVERY BARANGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7160,**
4 **OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991,**
5 **FURTHER EXPANDING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND FOR**
6 **OTHER PURPOSES**

7 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
8 *assembled:*
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10 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the “**Barangay Health**
11 **Workers Act.**”

12 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** — Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987
13 Constitution, the State hereby declares the policy of according utmost importance to the health
14 needs of the nation and shall henceforth endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other
15 social services available to all the people at affordable cost. Toward this end, the State shall
16 ensure that accessible and quality health services are extended to each individual through the
17 barangay health workers as the primary channel for implementing the State’s health policies
18 down to the barangay health needs, the State shall guarantee the appointment of a health worker
19 in every barangay as frontline health workers.

20 **SECTION 3. Coverage.** — The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all
21 barangay health workers accredited to act as such by the local health board in accordance with
22 guidelines issued by the Department of Health (DOH). For the purposes of this Act, the team
23 barangay health worker shall refer to a person who has undergone training program under any
24 accredited government or non-government organization primarily to render health care
25 services.

1 **SECTION 4.** Section 287 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
2 Government Code of 1991 as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

3 “Section 287. Chief Officials and Officers. –(a) There shall be in each barangay a
4 punong barangay, seven (7) sangguniang barangay members, the sangguniang kabataan
5 chairman, a barangay secretary, [and] a barangay treasurer, **AND AT LEAST FIVE (5)**
6 **BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF**
7 **BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS PER BARANGAY SHALL IN NO CASE BE**
8 **MORE THAN 1% OF THE BARANGAY’S TOTAL POPULATION.”**

9 **SECTION 5.** A new provision shall be inserted between Sections 395 and 396 of the
10 same Act to be denominated as Section 395-A, which shall read as follows:

11 **“SECTION 395-A. APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF BARANGAY**
12 **HEALTH WORKERS—THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER AS ACCREDITED**
13 **AND RECOMMENDED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH BOARD IN**
14 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883,**
15 **OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BENEFITS**
16 **ACT OF 1995, SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY MAYOR OF**
17 **THE AREA WHERE SUCH BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER WILL BE**
18 **APPOINTED IS LOCATED. A BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE**
19 **ENTITLED TO ALLOWANCES AND SUCH OTHER BENEFITS TO WHICH**
20 **OTHER APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS MAY BE ENTITLED TO NO**
21 **PERSON DULY APPOINTED AS BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE**
22 **REMOVED EXCEPT FOR VALID CAUSE AS PROVIDED UNDER EXISTING**
23 **CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS AND ONLY AFTER DUE NOTICE**
24 **AND HEARING.”**

25 **SECTION 6.** Section 393, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Local Governmen Code of the
26 Philippines, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

27 “Section 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials.—

28 a. Barangay Officials, including barangay tanods and members of the
29 lupong tagapamayapa, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments
30 as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal, or city ordinance in accordance
31 with the provisions of this Code, but in no case shall it be less than One Thousand Pesos

(P1,000.00) per month for the punong barangay and six hundred pesos (P600.00) per month for the sangguniang barangay members, treasurers, [and] barangay secretary, **AND BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS:** Provided, however that the annual appropriations for personal services shall be subject to the budgetary limitations perscribed under Title Five, Book II of this Code; **PROVIDED FURTHERMORE, THAT THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS CODE SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE APPLICATION OF AND ENTITLEMENT TO THEIR INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW SUCH AS REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6492 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND INCENTIVES ACT.**

b. The punong barangay, the sangguniang barangay members, the treasurer, [and] the barangay secretary **AND THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER** shall also: xxx

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Department of Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, shall within ninety days (90) days from the enactment of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts not otherwise affected shall remain in full effect and force.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect immediately after its complete publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.