

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Seventeenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3409

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Introduced by Honorable Peter M. "Sr. Pedro" Unabia

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

*"Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."*

Likewise, Section 11, Article XIII provides that:


*"Section 11. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost."*

Pursuant to these policies, there is a need to provide accessible and acceptable health services through the participatory strategies such as training of barangay health workers, community building and organizing, among others. In the forefront of these strategies are the barangay health workers who brave remote barangays, traverse inaccessible roads and perilous sea routes to discharge their tasks of bringing health care services to areas hardly reached by doctors. Yet, barangay health workers receive meager allowances.

During the Sixteenth Congress, House Bill No. 5277 authored by Representative Mercedes K. Alvarez and House Bill No. 4152 authored by Representative Doy C. Leachon were filed to provide security of tenure in favor of

barangay health workers. Unfortunately, it was archived before the opening of the Seventeenth Congress. Upon careful evaluation of their proposed measures however, I am convinced that it should be refiled to attain its noble intention. Hence, this bill.

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



PETER M. "SR. PEDRO" UNABIA

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AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR SECURITY OF TENURE FOR BARANGAY HEALTH  
WORKERS AND INCLUDING BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLAR AS  
BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS  
BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995”

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7883 is hereby amended to  
read as follows:

“SEC. 3. *Definition.* – The term “barangay health worker”  
refers to a person who has undergone training programs under any  
accredited government and non-government organization and who  
voluntarily renders primary health care services in the community  
after having been accredited to function as such by the local health

1 board in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the  
2 Department of Health (DOH).

3 FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, A BARANGAY  
4 NUTRITION SCHOLAR, AS PROVIDED UNDER  
5 PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1569, SHALL BE CONSIDERED A  
6 BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER.”

7 SEC. 2. Section 6 (d) of Republic Act No. 7883 is hereby amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 “SEC. 6. *Incentives and Benefits.*— In recognition of their  
10 services, all accredited barangay health workers who are actively and  
11 regularly performing their duties shall be entitled to the following  
12 incentives and benefits:

13 (a) xxx

14 xxx

xxx

xxx

15 (d) *Civil Service Eligibility AND SECURITY OF TENURE.* –

16 A second grade eligibility shall be granted to barangay health workers  
17 who have rendered [~~five (5)~~] TWO (2) years continuous service as  
18 such: *Provided*, That should the barangay health worker become a  
19 regular employee of the government, the total number of years served

1 as barangay health worker shall be credited to his/her service in  
2 computing retirement benefits.

3 NO PERSON DULY ACCREDITED AS BARANGAY  
4 HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE  
5 EXCEPT FOR VALID CAUSE AS PROVIDED UNDER EXISTING  
6 CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS AND ONLY  
7 AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING.

8 xxx.”

9 SEC. 3. *Review of Existing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department  
10 of Health in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and the  
11 National Nutrition Council shall review and harmonize all existing rules and  
12 regulations, plans and programs relative to the implementation of Republic Act No.  
13 7883 and Presidential Decree No. 1569 to effectively carry out the provisions of  
14 this Act.

15 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* –Alllaws, decrees, executive orders, and  
16 other presidential issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or  
17 modified accordingly.

18 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
19 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

20 Approved,