

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3168**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE LIANDA B. BOLILIA

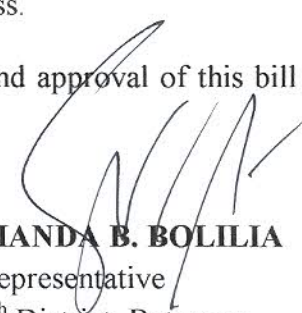
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide mandatory PhilHealth coverage for all incumbent Barangay Officials, Barangay Tanods, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Nutrition Scholars, Day Care Workers, and Members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa. This benefits coverage will be sourced from the National Health Insurance Fund of PhilHealth from proceeds of Republic Act No. 10351.

The officials and volunteer workers of the 42,028 barangays serve as frontliners of local governance. The Punong Barangays acts as the chief executive of the smallest administrative division in the Philippines. The Sangguniang Barangay is the legislative body that creates barangay resolutions and ordinances. Meanwhile, the Members of the Lupon Tagapamayapa comprise the Barangay Justice System or Katarungang Pambarangay whose function is to conciliate and mediate disputes at the barangay level so as to avoid legal action and relieve the courts of dock congestion. In addition, the Barangay Tanods are the enforcers of ordinances and ensure the peace and order within the barangay, while the Barangay Health, Day Care Workers, and Nutrition Scholars deliver government health and social services.

Ostensibly, the barangay officials and volunteer workers are sine quo non to the delivery of government services to the grassroots level. Up to this date, they only receive measly incentives. In particular, the barangay tanods described often as volunteers and are utilized by the Philippine National Police as force multipliers, receive different incentives and benefits depending on the capacity of their barangay, municipality or city. Most barangay, municipal and city governments could not afford to pay for the PhilHealth premiums if charged against their funds which mostly come from the Internal Revenue Allotment. By providing them free health insurance while fulfilling their duties through mandatory PhilHealth coverage, we will be gearing towards the achievement of universal healthcare access.

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


LIANDA B. BOLILIA
Representative
4th District, Batangas

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House Bill No. 3168

INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE LIANDA B. BOLILIA

AN ACT MANDATING THE COVERAGE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS, BARANGAY TANODS, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS, DAY CARE WORKERS, AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPON TAGAPAMAYAPA IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM OF PHILHEALTH

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – The national government shall prioritize the development of the *barangays* as basic unit of society. Every barangay unit shall have the ability to progress and be able to achieve sustainable development by providing mandatory health insurance coverage for the *barangay* officials and workers.

SECTION 2. *Coverage.* – *Barangay* officials, *barangay tanods*, *barangay* health workers, *barangay* nutrition scholars, day care workers, and Members of the *Lupon Tagapamayapa* shall be covered by this Act.

SECTION 3. *Mandatory PhilHealth Coverage.* – All *barangay* officials and volunteer workers under Section 2 of this Act shall be covered by the National Health Insurance program of PhilHealth. Funds necessary to ensure the enrolment of all barangay workers under Section 2 not currently covered by any existing category shall be sourced from the National Health Insurance Fund of PhilHealth from proceeds of Republic Act No. 10351, in accordance with the pertinent laws and regulations.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretaries of Health and Interior and Local Government shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, That the failure of the Secretaries of Health and Interior and Local Government to promulgate the said rules and regulations shall not prevent the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *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,