



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6705

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Currently our country and the rest of the world is fighting a battle against a virus that has no known cure yet. In order to avoid the spread, the government has mandated the Filipinos to stay at home by implementing a community quarantine throughout the country. However, although most people are mandated to be at home, public health workers have no choice but to continue doing their jobs in order to help contain the pandemic and aid those who have been affected by it. As public health workers continue to remain exposed to the threats that public health emergencies bring, it is only but right to grant them a Special Risk Allowance as a form of support by the government.

This bill aims to grant a maximum of 25% of the monthly basic salary of public health workers who are directly exposed to matters of public health emergency as shall be declared by the President. Also included in this bill are the conditions that are needed to be complied with by public health workers in order to receive said grant.

The presence of our public health workers is nothing but extremely valuable. The current pandemic is showing the country how resilient and courageous our public health workers are. In an effort to support our public health workers should a public health emergency occur again, the passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

eric l. olivarez

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1
2 **AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF SPECIAL RISK ALLOWANCE**
3 **TO FRONTLINE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS IN TIMES OF**
4 **PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY**
5

6 *Be it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic of the*
7 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
8

9 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Special Risk Allowance Act
10 of 2020."
11

12 **SECTION 2. Grant of Special Risk Allowance.** – National government agencies,
13 government-owned or controlled corporations, and local government units are authorized
14 to grant a Special Risk Allowance (SRA) equivalent to a maximum of 25% of monthly
15 basic salary pay to Public Health Workers (PHWs) who are exposed tremendously to
16 health risks and physical hardships while in the line of duty in times of Public Health
17 Emergency.
18

19 For purposes of this Act, "PHWs" shall refer to medical, allied medical, and other
20 necessary personnel assigned in hospitals and healthcare facilities and who are directly
21 exposed to matters of Public Health Emergency. "Public Health Emergency" shall refer to
22 an event of an epidemic of national and/or international concern which threatens national
23 security in order to mobilize governmental and non-governmental agencies to respond to
24 the threat as shall be declared by the President of the Philippines.
25

26 **SECTION 3. Conditions on the Grant of Special Risk Allowance.** – The grant
27 of the Special Risk Allowance shall be subject to the following conditions:

- 1 a. The PHWs provide critical and urgent services to respond to the proclaimed
2 public health emergency;
3
4 b. The PHWs are either:
5 i. Civilian employees occupying regular, contractual, casual or part-time
6 positions; or
7
8 ii. Workers engaged through contract of service (COS) or job order (JO)
9 including barangay health workers (BHWs) regardless of the nature of
10 engagement; provided that the workers are assigned to hospitals and
11 other healthcare facilities.
12
13 c. The PHWs physically report for work at their assigned work stations on the
14 prescribed official working hours, as authorized by the head of agency/office
15 during the period of public health emergency; and
16
17 d. The grant of the special risk allowance shall be pro-rated based on the number
18 of days that PHWs physically report to work during the period of the public
19 health emergency in their respective places of assignment - the period of
20 reckoning shall be determined by the proper government agency. The basis of
21 the pro-rated grant of the special risk allowance shall be as follows:
22

No. of Days Physically Reporting for Work	Percentage of the Incentive
3 to 7	25%
8 to 12	50%
13 to 17	75%
18 or more	100%

23
24 **SECTION 4. *Exclusion from the Grant of the Special Risk Allowance.*** – Those
25 engaged without employer-employee relationship and funded from non-personnel
26 services appropriations and budgets, except those authorized in the preceding
27 paragraph, are excluded from the grant of the Special Risk Allowance, such as the
28 following:
29

- 30 a. Consultants and experts engaged for a limited period to perform specific
31 activities or services with expected outputs;
32
33 b. Laborers engaged through job contracts and those paid on piecework basis;
34
35 c. Student workers and apprentices; and
36
37 d. All individuals and group of individuals whose services are engaged through
38 COS or JO.
39

1 **SECTION 5. *Special Risk Allowance for Public Health Workers of National***
2 ***Government Agencies and Government Owned or Controlled Corporations.*** – The
3 amount required for personnel occupying regular, contractual, casual or part-time
4 positions in national government agencies shall be charged against their available
5 released personnel service (PS) allotments, while the amount required for COS/JO
6 workers shall be charged against their available released Maintenance and Other
7 Operating Expenses (MOOE) allotments, without need for prior authority from the
8 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), provided that all authorized mandatory
9 expenses shall have been paid first.

10
11 In case of insufficient PS or MOOE allotments, the agencies concerned shall
12 submit to the DBM a special budget request duly supported by a list of entitled personnel
13 with the corresponding amounts required.

14
15 For GOCCs, the amount required shall be charged against their respective
16 approved corporate operating budgets for the applicable fiscal year. A GOCC who does
17 not have sufficient funds to fully cover the amount authorized herein may grant the same
18 at a lower but uniform rate for all qualified personnel.

19
20 **SECTION 6. *Special Risk Allowance for Public Health Workers in the Local***
21 ***Government Units.*** – The grant of the SRA to PHWs in the LGUs including BHWs shall
22 be determined by their respective sanggunians depending on the LGU's financial
23 capability, at rates not exceeding the amounts authorized herein, subject to:

- 24
25 a. The PS limitations under the Local Government Code of 1991 in the case of
26 employees of the LGU;
27
28 b. Available MOOE allotments in the case of COS/JO workers and BHWs; and
29
30 c. Conditions set by the appropriate governmental agencies, chargeable against
31 the funds of the local government unit during the fiscal year of the said public
32 health emergency.

33
34 Should there be insufficient funds to fully cover the SRA, a lower but uniform rate
35 may be granted for all qualified personnel.

36
37 **SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of
38 Budget and Management, in consultation with other concerned government agencies,
39 including the Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local Government,
40 shall, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and
41 regulations necessary to implement this Act.

42
43 **SECTION. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared
44 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be
45 affected thereby.

1 **SECTION. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations
2 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
3

4 **SECTION. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
6
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9 **APPROVED.**