

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Philippines

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. **2565**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

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Introduced by Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to include elected and appointed barangay officials as compulsory members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), amending for this purpose Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as "*The Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997*".

Barangay officials work in the frontline of government services by serving as the primary planning and implementing workforce of government programs and activities. Their valuable contribution to the community through the delivery of basic social services as well as the maintenance of peace and order cannot be overlooked.

The GSIS is a social security institution created by Commonwealth Act No. 186 and later amended under Republic Act No. 8291. It was created as a social insurance institution under a defined benefit scheme, which insures its members against the occurrence of certain contingencies in exchange for their monthly premium contributions.

Republic Act No. 8291, specifically Section 2(d), defines Employee or Member as any person, receiving **compensation** while in the service of an employer, whether by election or appointment, irrespective of status of appointment, **including barangay and sanggunian officials**. Compensation as defined in Section 2(i) of the said law however, refers to the basic pay or salary received by an employee, pursuant to his election/appointment, **excluding per diems, bonuses, overtime pay, honoraria, allowances and any other emoluments** received in addition to the basic pay which are not integrated into the basic pay under existing laws.

The said provisions of R.A. 8291 therefore, are not in harmony with Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of the Philippines. The latter provides under Section 393 (a) that, barangay officials, including barangay tanods and members of the lupong tagapamayapa, shall only receive **honoraria**. Honorarium is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as "a payment for a service (as making a speech) on which custom or propriety forbids a price to be set."

Hence, the urgent need to pass this measure to give recognition to our elective barangay officials for their untiring efforts and genuine public service to the people and their communities. In addition, this bill is intended to empower the barangay officials and raise their economic and social status by providing them with decent and comfortable living conditions after they retire from government service.

Due to the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**ATTY. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**  
*1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay*

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House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced By **Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

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**AN ACT**

**SEEKING TO INCLUDE BARANGAY OFFICIALS IN THE COMPULSORY  
MEMBERSHIP OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS),  
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE RA 8291 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the welfare and quality of life of our elective barangay officials. The State values the services of its barangay officials and shall endeavor to provide them with insurance coverage to ensure efficient and effective performance of their duties and functions.

**SECTION 2. Barangay Officials** – For purposes of this Act, barangay officials shall refer to the Punong Barangay and the Sangguniang Barangay Members, whether elected or appointed in accordance with Section 45 of the Local Government Code.

**SECTION 3.** Section 2(d) of Republic Act No. 8291 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. –

XXX

XXX

XXX

(d) *Employee or Member* — Any person, receiving compensation while in the service of an employer as defined herein, whether by election or appointment, irrespective of status of appointment, including barangay and sanggunian officials **WHETHER OR NOT RECEIVING FIXED MONTHLY COMPENSATION;**

XXX

XXX

XXX”

**SECTION 4.** Section 2(i) of the same Republic Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. —

XXX

XXX

XXX

*“(i) Compensation — The basic pay or salary received by an employee, pursuant to his election/appointment, excluding per diems, bonuses, overtime pay, honoraria EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIAN OFFICIALS, allowances and any other emoluments received in addition to the basic pay which are not integrated into the basic pay under existing laws;”*

XXX

XXX

XXX”

**SECTION 5. Compulsory Coverage.** — All barangay officials shall be included in the compulsory membership of the Government Service and Insurance System under Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8291.

**SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The Government Service and Insurance System, in coordination and consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Governmentm, Liga ng Mga Barangays and other agencies concerned, shall promulgate and adopt such rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 7.** The provinces, cities or municipalities, subject to the availability of funds of the local government unit, may opt to contribute or subsidize the monthly contributions of said barangay officials.

**SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*