



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
4395
HOUSE BILL No. _____



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ANTONINO G. CALIXTO

Explanatory Note


Article XIII Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "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."

By virtue of the Title I Section 17 of the Local Government Code, deliveries of health care services were devolved to the local government unit (LGU), aiming for self-reliant LGUs to deliver more direct and immediate health care services to the people. At the forefront of primary health care delivery are the barangay health workers or BHW. As front liners, BHWs are entrusted with primary health care delivery but the benefits and incentives they receive are not commensurate with the heavy responsibilities they bear.

Republic Act 7883 or the Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995 allowed for the institutionalization of remuneration for our BHWs but the law has to be updated to present realities. Apart from the hazard and subsistence allowances enshrined in RA 7883, our BHWs nationwide receive somewhere between P100 to P2, 000 monthly honorarium depending on the discretion of the local leaders. Although BHWs are categorized as volunteers, such irregular and measly amount does not give them dignity and recognition they deserved for the valuable work they do. Having to depend on the whims of the local leaders for the amount of their honorarium further demoralize the BHWs as they are often at the mercy of politicians and are often caught in political clashes.

This bill aims to provide fixed monthly honorarium, cash gifts, separation pay and disability benefits to all accredited BHWs. It seeks to ensure that amounts provided in the measure will be adjusted to present realities based on Consumer Price Indices (CPI), upon review and approval of the local health board.

In view of the foregoing, and in support of our dedicated and committed accredited BHWs, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. ANTONINO G. CALIXTO
Representative
Lone District of Pasay City



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HOUSE BILL No. 4395

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ANTONINO G. CALIXTO

AN ACT GRANTING A FIXED MONTHLY HONORARIA AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7883 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGYA 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. Short Title. – Section 6 of Republic Act 7883 otherwise known as the “Barangay Health Workers’ Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995” is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6. Incentives and Benefits – In recognition of their service, all accredited barangay health workers who are actively and regularly performing their duties shall be entitled to the following incentives and benefits:

- a) **HONORARIA – ALL ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A FIXED MONTHLY HONORARIA OF FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P4,000).**
- b) **CASH GIFT – ALL ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS SHALL RECEIVE A CASH GIFT OF TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000) TO BE GIVEN EVERY DECEMBER.**
- c) **SEPARATION PAY – ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS WHO HAVE SERVED FOR TEN (10) YEARS AND ABOVE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000) FOR EVERY YEAR OF SERVICE.**
- d) **DISABILITY BENEFIT – ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS WHO SUSTAIN INJURY OR SICKNESS ARISING OUT OF AND IN THE COURSE OF PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000) FOR EVERY YEAR OF SERVICE**
- e) Hazard Allowance – xxx
- k) Preferential Access to Loans – xxx

SUCH INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS, MAY BE INCREASED, UPON REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL HEALTH BOARD, AFTER CONSIDERING AMONG OTHERS, PRESENT CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI), AS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO)

SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The Department of Health, in cooperation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, and other concerned government agencies, shall formulate, within one hundred eighty days (180) from its effectivity, the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, issuances or any part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,