

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3674



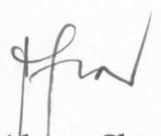
Introduced by Representative ALYSSA SHEENA TAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the World Health Organization, the estimated maternal mortality ratio per 100000 live births is 114 in 2015. Various factors are responsible for the high mortality rate issue in the Philippines. The Department of Health identifies complications related to pregnancy occurring in the course of labor, delivery, and puerperium; hypertension complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and puerperium; postpartum hemorrhage; and pregnancy with abortive outcome as main causes of maternal mortality.

In 2016, the Philippine Statistics Authority reported a total of 1,731,289 live births. 91.6% of the total number of births were medically attended, and there are still those who do not have access to the services of trained professionals. Women in remote areas are at a disadvantage and are the ones more prone to suffer birthing complications on account of the lack of access to medical assistance. Considering the high rate of maternal mortality, the need to provide professionals with formal training must be recognized as it is the policy of the State to promote the people's right to health and instill health consciousness among them.

In a statement made by the United Nations Population Fund, the organization highlights midwives as indispensable partners in reducing maternal deaths. They play a significant role in providing essential maternal and newborn health care. Thus, the instant bill mandates every city and municipality in the Philippines to appoint a midwife in each of their respective barangays. The barangay midwives appointed shall ensure that mothers and infants within their area of responsibility are given necessary health care services. In view of these circumstances, and in order to lower the rate of maternal mortality, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


Atty. Alyssa Sheena Tan
Representative, 4th District of Isabela

HOUSE BILL NO. 3674

Introduced by Representative ALYSSA SHEENA TAN

AN ACT
MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE MIDWIFE FOR EACH BARANGAY,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Statement of the Policy.* In accordance with Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to take a proactive role in providing pre-natal and post-natal maternal, and newborn care. Towards this end, this Act mandates the appointment of midwives in each barangay, thereby increasing access to health care services.

SECTION 2. *Appointment of Barangay Midwives.* Every city and municipality shall appoint a midwife in each of their respective barangays; *Provided* that remote areas where there are no existing healthcare professionals and areas that have high maternal mortality rates shall be given priority in the appointment of midwives. The barangay midwives shall, as much as possible, come from the same barangay or municipality where he or she will be appointed.

SECTION 3. *Responsibility of Midwives.* All barangay midwives shall ensure that mothers and infants in their respective jurisdictions are given quality and essential health care services, including, but not limited to the following:

- 1.) Pre-natal and post-natal care;
- 2.) Breastfeeding support;
- 3.) Providing information on the importance of immunization, and ensuring that infants are given the proper vaccines;
- 4.) Providing proper care and nutrition of both mothers and their infants; and
- 5.) Such other duties as shall be determined by the Department of Health.

Barangay midwives are also mandated to observe the duties and obligations of a public health worker as provided in Republic Act. 7305, hereinafter referred to by its short title, "the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers". It is further provided that barangay midwives shall observe the Code of Conduct of for Public Health Workers.

SECTION 4. Qualifications of Barangay Midwives. No midwife shall be appointed in any barangay unless they hold a valid certificate of registration and a midwife professional

license in accordance with Republic Act No. 7392, otherwise known as the "Philippine Midwifery Act of 1992".

The Department of Health shall ensure that midwives are also equipped with Basic Emergency Obstetric Care. It shall also determine the need to further provide barangay midwives with a Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care training, subject to the guidelines that the department may issue.

SECTION 5. *Compensation and Benefits.* All barangay midwives shall be appropriately compensated by the Department of Health. Barangay midwives shall also be entitled to all the benefits available under the Magna Carta of Public Health Workers.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Health, the Department of Interior and Local Government, and the Civil Service Commission shall, within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, formulate and promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for its implementation; *Provided*, that other concerned government agencies and non-government organizations may be requested to assist in the formulation of the same.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Health. For Local Government Units, the requirements shall be taken from their internal revenue allotment and other local funds. Thereafter, such funds as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the appropriations of the Department of Health and the Respective Local Government Units.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions that are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, and other issuance inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,