

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1557



INTRODUCED BY REP. JULIENNE "JAM JAM" BARONDA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 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 Section 17 of Title I of the 1991 Local Government Code, the delivery of basic services and facilities such as health and social welfare services were devolved to the local government units down to the barangay level that now provides for the maintenance and operations of barangay health centers and daycare centers.

However, with the continued exodus of doctors and nurses seeking higher paying jobs abroad, Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) have become indispensable allies of the barangay in the delivery of health services at community level. They render voluntary primary health care services despite the lack of allowances and benefits that could at least compensate for their selfless volunteer work and initiatives.

Despite their valuable service, it is ironic that many BHWs continue to be underprivileged and marginalized. Exposure to health risks and the lack of compensation, allowance and benefits are only among the many challenges they face.

Moreover, many barangays remain without or lacking in BHWs because there are not enough mechanisms to ensure the steady supply of barangay health providers.

This measure aims to address this community health dilemma as it mandates the appointment of at least 1 barangay health worker in each and every barangay, to be appointed by the municipal or city mayor, after proper accreditation with the local health board. BHWs shall also be entitled to allowances and such other benefits accorded to other appointed barangay officials. BHWs will enjoy security of tenure as expressly provided and recognized by this proposed measure. These are long overdue and well-deserved entitlements and benefits in recognition of barangay health workers who continue to help nurture our citizens' health and wellness.

With the passage of RA 11223 or the Universal Health Care Law last February 20, 2019, it is our fervent hope that this measure will further promote health assistance and increase the number of BHWs actively serving the people in every barangay, strengthening the country's thrust to make healthcare more affordable and accessible.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


JULIENNE "JAM JAM" BARONDA
Iloilo City Lone District

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS
IN EVERY BARANGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE,
FURTHER EXPANDING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title-** This Act shall be known as the *"Barangay Health*
2 *Workers Act of 2019"*

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy-** Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 11 of
4 the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State hereby declares the policy of according
5 utmost importance to the health needs of the nation and shall henceforth
6 endeavour to make essential goods, health and other social services available to
7 all the people at affordable cost. Toward this end, the State shall ensure that
8 accessible and quality health services are extended to each individual through the
9 barangay health workers as the primary channel for implementing the State's
10 health policies down to the barangay health needs, the State shall guarantee the
11 appointment of a health worker in every barangay as frontline health workers.

12 **SECTION 3. Coverage.-** The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all
13 barangay health workers accredited to act as such by the local health board in
14 accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Health (DPH). For the
15 purposes of this Act, the term barangay health worker shall refer to a person who

1 has undergone training program under any accredited government or non-
2 government organization primarily to render health care services.

3 **SECTION 4.** Section 387 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the
4 Local Government Code of 1991 as amended, shall be further amended to read as
5 follows:

6 "Section 387. Chief Officials and Officers.- (a) There shall be in each
7 barangay a punong barangay, seven (7) sangguniang barangay members, the
8 sangguniang kabataan chairman, a barangay secretary, [and] a barangay
9 treasurer, AND AT LEAST FIVE (5) BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS
10 PROVIDED THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS
11 PER BARANGAY SHALL IN NO CASE BE MORE THAN 1% OF THE
12 BARANGAY'S TOTAL POPULATION."

13 **SECTION 5.** A new provision shall be inserted between Sections 395 and
14 396 of the same Act to be denominated as Section 395-A, which shall read as
15 follows:

16 "SECTION 395-A. APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF
17 BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS- THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER AS
18 ACCREDITED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY
19 HEALTH BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC
20 ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH
21 WORKERS AND BENEFITS ACT OF 1995, SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE
22 MUNICIPAL OR CITY MAYOR OF THE AREA WHERE SUCH BARANGAY
23 HEALTH WORKER WILL BE APPOINTED IS LOCATED. A BARANGAY
24 HEALTH WORKERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO ALLOWANCES AND SUCH
25 OTHER BENEFITS TO WHICH OTHER APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS
26 MAY BE ENTITLED TO NO PERSON DULY APPOINTED AS A BARANGAY
27 HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE REMOVED EXCEPT FOR VALID CAUSE AS
28 PROVIDED UNDER EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS
29 AND ONLY AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING"

30 **SECTION 6.** Section 393, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Local Government
31 Code of the Philippines, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

1 “Section 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials.-

2 (a) Barangay officials, including barangay tanods and members of the lupong
3 tagapamayapa, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments
4 as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal. Or city ordinance in
5 accordance with the provisions of this code, but in no case shall it be less than One
6 Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per month for the punong barangay and Six Hundred
7 Pesos (P600.00) per month for the sangguniang barangay members, barangay
8 treasurer, [and] barangay secretary AND BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS:
9 Provided, however that the annual appropriations for personal services shall be
10 subject to the budgetary limitations prescribed under Title Five, Book II of this
11 Code; PROVIDED FURTHERMORE, THAT THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS
12 CODE SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE APPLICATION OF AND
13 ENTITLEMENT TO OTHER INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY
14 OFFICIALS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW SUCH AS REPUBLIC ACT NO.
15 6942 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
16 BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT.

17 (b) The punong barangay, the sangguniang barangay members, the barangay
18 treasurer, [and] the barangay secretary AND THE BARANGAY HEALTH
19 WORKER shall also: xxx

20 **SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.-** The Department of
21 Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the and the Civil Service
22 Commission, shall within ninety (90) days from the enactment of this Act,
23 promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementations of this
24 Act.

25 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause-** If, for any reason, any provision of this
26 Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not
27 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

28 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause-** All laws, decrees, executive orders,
29 proclamations and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent
30 herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1 **SECTION 10. Effectivity Clause-** This Act shall take effect immediately
2 after its publication in at least two national newspapers of general circulation.

3 *Approved,*