

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2689



Introduced by: Representative Shernee A. Tan

EXPLANATORY NOTE


A few decades ago, the Philippines started to experience "brain-drain" due to the migration of Filipino health workers to look for greener pasture abroad. The mass exodus of doctors and nurses led to the training of Barangay Health Workers (BHW) to fill the vacuum left by doctors and nurses.

The BHWs perform crucial functions in the delivery of frontline health services to the people, particularly in far-flung barangays. BHW in every barangay plays a crucial role as a leader, for he or she organizes his community towards health; as a teacher, for he or she shares his knowledge as well as ideas he or she learned about health with great emphasis to disease prevention; and as a service provider, for his or her responsibility is to attend to the immediate primary needs of the community.

In recognition of the vital role played by BHWs, Congress in 1995, granted incentives and benefits, like Hazard Allowance, Subsistence Allowance and other non-monetary benefits, to them by virtue of Republic Act No. 7883. However, this law does not provide a fixed honorarium to these BHW that they only rely on whatever amount representing their hazard and subsistence allowances given by the local government unit where they are stationed.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this bill to grant a fixed honorarium in the amount of not less than two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) per month to BHW in addition to their hazard and subsistence allowances and other non-monetary benefits.

In view of the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


SHERNEE A. TAN
Representative
Kusug Tausug Partylist

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AN ACT
GRANTING BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS (BHWs) A MONTHLY HONORARIUM, IN ADDITION TO INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY 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. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7883 otherwise known as the Barangay Health Workers Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 6. Incentives and Benefits. – In recognition of their services, all accredited health workers who are actively and regularly performing their duties shall, IN ADDITION TO A MONTHLY HONORARIUM OF NOT LESS THAN TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00), be entitled to the following incentives and benefits:

XXX XXX XXX

SEC. 2. The amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the annual appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

SEC. 3. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,