REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6641



Introduced by MAGDALO Party-List Representative HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay is the basic political unit and foundation of governance and nation-building. It acts as the direct channel of the government in delivering its basic services to the citizenry. Barangay officials and barangay volunteer workers are then considered as one of the government's frontliners in enforcing peace and order in their respective locales. However, the national government has not yet granted to them the entitlement to be justly compensated in terms of social benefits that regular government workers receive. They only receive honoraria for their services in the community.

This bill seeks to provide social security benefits to all Punong Barangays, Members of the Sangguniang Barangay, Chairperson of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurers and qualified members of the Lupong Tagamayapa, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Tanods and other barangay volunteer workers. This measure will make barangay workers entitled to enroll under the programs of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund).

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

MANUEL DG, CABOCHAN III

Representative

Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT

PROVIDING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEER WORKERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.*— This Act shall be known as the "Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers' Social Security Benefits Act."

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 SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to empower government officials and public volunteer workers at the grassroots level. In line with this policy and in cognizance of the crucial role of barangay officials and volunteer workers in nation building, the State shall, through the provision of social security benefits shall protect their rights and promote their welfare.

SEC. 3. Coverage. – All Punong Barangays, Member of the Sangguniang Barangay, Chairpersons of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurers and qualified members of the Lupong Tagamayapa, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Tanods and other barangay volunteer workers shall be automatically covered by this Act: Provided, That the coverage for qualified barangay volunteer workers shall be made in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations and based on the qualification standards that may be established by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other government agencies concerned: Provided, further, That when the barangay official or volunteer worker receives a fixed salary whether in the same capacity or by virtue of a permanent appointment in any other government office, by election to another public office or by employment in the private sector, their coverage under this Act shall automatically cease and they shall then be covered under the appropriate laws: Provided, finally, That any of the abovementioned barangay official or volunteer worker who shall automatically lose coverage or cease to be covered by this Act by virtue of termination or resignation from

office for any lawful cause shall have the option to continue the coverage by paying the required premiums thereon in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

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SEC. 4. Membership of Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the Government Service Insurance System. — The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) shall establish a social insurance program to provide life insurance and social protection to barangay officials and volunteer workers in accordance with pertinent laws and regulation.

SEC. 5. Enrolment of Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation. — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall enroll non-member barangay officials and volunteer workers into the National Insurance Program in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

SEC. 6. Member of Non-Member Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the Voluntary Membership Program of the Home Development Mutual Fund. — The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) shall enroll non-member barangay officials and volunteer workers into the National Insurance Program in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

SEC. 7. Report to Congress. – The GSIS, PhilHealth and Pag-IBIG Fund shall submit an annual report to Congress on the implementation of the Barangay Official and Volunteer Workers' Social Security Benefit Program no later than June 30 of every year. This report shall contain the necessary actuarial studies and calculations to ensure the sustainability of the social security benefits program and the financial stability of their respective agencies. GSIS, PhilHealth and Pag-IBIG Fund shall submit their respective report either in printed form or by way of electronic document.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act following its enactment into law.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall, in coordination with the GSIS, PhilHealth and the Pag-IBIG Fund and after consultation with the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas (LNB) and other directly affected stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

 SEC. 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,