



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5893



Introduced by 2nd District of Agusan del Norte Representative
HON. MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide the magna carta of barangay animal health workers.

The livestock industry is a major source of livelihood in rural communities. It is one of the main sources of income of small farmers. However, animals in the livestock industry are vulnerable to various diseases and epidemics. This is further complicated by the limited and difficult access to veterinary services especially in the far-flung areas.


This scenario prompted the Department of Agriculture, through the Agricultural Training Institute, and in coordination with the local government units, to conduct the "*Training on Animal Health Care and Management for Barangay Animal Health Worker.*" This training aims at capacitating leading livestock farmers to become barangay animal health workers who help in the delivery of basic animal health care services. Basic animal health care services include deworming, castration, administration of injectable and oral vitamins and other related tasks such as identification of the clinical signs of animal diseases, basic animal production and animal husbandry practices. Presently, this training is being conducted only in some pilot areas of Cordillera Administrative Region but yet to be implemented in the entire country.

Recently, there were outbreaks of epidemics in the country that affected domestic animals in different areas of the Philippines such as African swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease. This situation demands for adequate animal healthcare services particularly in remote places where access to veterinary services are limited.

This bill aims to promote and institutionalize the position of barangay animal health workers. Under this proposed measure, after appropriate training, any qualified applicant may register and apply as barangay animal health worker in any of the regional offices of the Department of Agriculture. The registered and qualified applicants may be assigned by the Department of Agriculture in the city or municipality where they reside to perform and implement quality basic animal health services under the supervision of the municipal, city or provincial veterinarians. Further, in this proposed measure, local government units may provide additional allowances to barangay animal health workers in their respective jurisdiction, such as hazard and subsistence allowances.

Barangay animal health workers will play an important part in combating epidemics in our communities. The proposed measure will contribute positively to the goal of the government in achieving fast, effective and efficient delivery of basic veterinary services in our barangays.

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



ANGEL M. AMANTE-MATBA



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HON. MA. ANGELICA M. AMANTE-MATBA

**AN ACT PROVIDING
THE MAGNA CARTA OF BARANGAY ANIMAL HEALTH WORKERS**

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

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Magna Carta of Barangay Animal Health Workers.*”

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the livestock industry as one of the major sources of livelihood of the people especially in the rural areas. Towards this end, the State adopts policies that improve the social and economic well-being and welfare of the barangay animal health workers who are in the forefront in the delivery of animal health care services at the grassroots level. The State shall promote their living and working conditions and develop their skills and capabilities in order to deliver a more responsive and better animal health care projects and programs in the barangays by providing standard policies on their benefits, trainings and working conditions.

SEC. 3. **Coverage.** – This Act covers all registered barangay animal health workers (BAHWs) assigned in any city or municipality who perform basic animal health care services and programs.

For purposes of this Act, *barangay animal health workers* refer to qualified and registered individuals employed by Department of Agriculture (DA) to perform basic animal health care services such as vaccinations, deworming, deflucking, castration, administration of

1 injectable and oral vitamins, disease detection and surveillance, first aid treatments and other
2 related tasks in barangays under the supervision of the municipal, city or provincial
3 veterinarian.

4 SEC. 4. **Recruitment.** – The recruitment policy and minimum requirements with
5 respect to the selection and appointment of BAHWs shall be developed by the Department of
6 Agriculture, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in
7 accordance with civil service rules and regulations.

8 SEC. 5. **Qualification.** – To be entitled to the benefits and incentives under this Act,
9 BAHWs must undertake and complete the basic animal health care trainings provided by
10 the DA or any accredited government and non-government organizations which include: (a)
11 basic orientation and training on animal health care service program; (b) institutionalizing
12 animal health care service; (c) local animal health research; (d) basic veterinary practices; (e)
13 basic animal production; (f) animal husbandry practices; (g) identification of the clinical signs
14 of animal diseases; and (h) proper care and management of animals.

15 A certificate shall be issued by the DA upon completion of the training program.

16 After attending and completing the training program for basic animal health care
17 services and other veterinary practices, any qualified applicant may register and apply as
18 barangay animal health worker in any of the regional offices of the Department of Agriculture.
19 A BAHW may be assigned in the city or municipality where the BAHW resides.

20 SEC. 6. **Salaries.** – All registered BAHWs are entitled to a compensation equivalent to
21 a salary grade eight (8), under Republic Act No. 6758, as amended, otherwise known as the
22 “*Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989.*”

23 SEC. 7. **Working Hours.** – BAHWs are required to render eight (8) working hours a
24 day or a total of forty (40) working hours a week: *Provided, That* the municipal, city or

1 provincial veterinarian may require BAHW to render services beyond the required hours during
2 emergency situations.

3 SEC. 8. **Hazard Allowance.** – Municipalities or cities may grant hazard allowance to
4 BAHWs assigned in their jurisdiction who are exposed to situations, conditions or factors
5 where unavoidable danger or risk exists that endanger their health or life, or increase the danger
6 or risk in the exercise of their duties.

7 SEC. 9. **Subsistence Allowance.** – The municipality, city or province may also grant
8 subsistence allowance to BAHWs which is computed in accordance with the prevailing rate in
9 their respective localities.

10 SEC. 10. **Training, Education and Career Enrichment Programs.** – The DA and other
11 government agencies or non-government organizations, shall provide opportunities for the
12 following:

13 (a) Educational programs which recognize years of primary animal health care service
14 as credits to higher education in institutions with stepladder curricula that may entitle BAHWs
15 to upgrade their skills and knowledge for community work or to pursue further training to assist
16 the municipal, city or provincial veterinarian;

17 (b) Continuing education, study and exposure tours, training, grants, field immersion,
18 scholarships; and

19 (c) Special training programs and other programs that address community animal health
20 care services, problems and issues.

21 SEC. 11. **Free Legal Services.** – Legal representation and consultation services for
22 BAHWs shall be provided by the Public Attorneys Office in cases of coercion, interference,
23 and in other civil and criminal cases filed by or against BAHWs arising out of or in connection
24 with the performance of their duties.

1 SEC. 12. ***Appropriation.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
2 Act shall be charged to the annual appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter,
3 such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual
4 General Appropriations Act.

5 SEC. 13. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
6 approval of this Act, the Secretary of the Agriculture shall, in consultation with the Secretary
7 of the Interior and Local Government, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
8 implementation of this Act.

9 SEC. 14. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and their
10 implementing rules, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended
11 or modified accordingly.

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

14 *Approved,*