

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City



**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL No. 3641**

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**Introduced by**  
**Honorable Cristal L. Bagatsing**

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**AN ACT**  
**CREATING THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**PROGRAM, INCREASING COMPENSATION AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY**  
**HEALTH WORKERS (BHWs), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution lays down the national health policy in this wise: "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 an affordable cost."

Barangay Health Workers are the frontliners for health services of the barangays. Sometimes they become doctors or nurses since they are within the barangay and the immediate response to medical needs of the neighborhood in the barangay. They are the first to respond not only in medical needs of the neighborhood but, also during calamities.

This bill seeks to introduce Education and Training Program for BHWs in order to develop them into skilled medical practitioner and to ensure the public the continuous supply of public health workers in order to respond to the needs of their barangay.

The immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**HON. CRISTAL L. BAGATSING**

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**An Act**

**Creating the Community Health Worker Education and Training Program, Increasing Compensation and Other Benefits for Barangay health Workers (BHW), Appropriating Funds Therefor and for other purposes**

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

**Section 1. *Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “The BHW Act of 2019”.

**Section 2. *Coverage.*** – The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all barangay health workers under Republic Act No. 7883. For the purposes of this Act, the term barangay health worker shall refer to a person who has undergone training program under any accredited government or non-government organization primarily to render health care services, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7883.

**Section 3. *Six-month Education and Training Program for Community-based Health Workers.*** – The Department of Health, in coordination with the University of the Philippines, shall develop a competency-based education and training curriculum for all barangay health workers. The curriculum shall train the community health workers as healthcare provider, community organizer, health service manager, trainer and educator, and researcher. It



shall include basic orientation and training on health programs and institutionalized health service delivery system, primary health care, basic community organizing, local health research, social health insurance navigation, basic local resource generation and mobilization, training needs analysis, basic report writing and communication skills, and program planning and development. Courses on basic dental care, reproductive health, STI and HIV/AIDS prevention, nutrition, physical therapy, traditional and herbal medicine and reflexology shall also be offered.

**Section 4. *Accreditation and Competency Assessment.*** – The Department of Health, in coordination with local government and the Civil Service Commission, shall conduct a competency assessment test upon completion of the Education and Training Program, provided that this requirement shall be waived for those who have served as Barangay health Workers for five (5) or more years. Only those who have passed the Assessment test or have served as BHWs for five years or more will be accredited. The Provincial Health Board, with the participation of TESDA, Philhealth, and accredited training NGOs, is hereby mandated to carry out the accreditation of Barangay Health Workers.

**Section 5. *Program Cost and Cost Sharing for Local Government Units.***

– The basic Education and Training Program shall be offered free of charge. Local governments shall adopt a cost-sharing financing scheme with the National Government through the DOH for the implementation of the basic course on Barangay Health Work depending on the income level of the concerned local government units.

**Section 6. *Compensation and Other Incentives.*** – All accredited Barangay Health Workers shall be entitled to a monthly basic pay of six thousand pesos (P6,000.00). They shall likewise be entitled to the incentives and benefits provided under the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers, and shall be

covered by all existing statutory benefits such as PAG-IBIG, GSIS and Philhealth. In addition, they shall be given burial and disability assistance in case of death or if the BHW is afflicted by illness which results to disability of Barangay Health Workers.

A BHW ha served less than five (5) years upon the passage of this Act shall be given a pro-rated amount based on years of service. S/he will be given first priority in enlisting for the Education and training Program.

**Section 7. *Compensation based on Philhealth ulitilization.*** – Philhealth is directed to develop a compensation package for accredited BHWs based on Philhealth utilization for programs including but not limited to social health insurance navigation, maternal neo-natal child health care and nutrition, priomary care packages, rehabilitation and recovery of senior citizens and Persons with Disability (PWD), provided that compensation received from Philhealth will be over and above the monthly basic pay.

**Section 8. *Mandatory Continuing Community-based Health Education.*** – The DOH, in cooperation with TESDA, will formulate a module for Mandatory Continuing Community-based Health Education (MCCHE), Each Accredited BHW will be required to undergo an MCCHE at least every three (3) years of active service, or as warranted by the DOH.

**Section 9. *Implementing Agencies.*** – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA and DOH, with the participation of various health union representatives shall formulate, finalize and launch the BHW education training program, assessment, and national certification program. The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), DOG, LGUs, and other appropriate government agencies, with the participation of various health union representatives, shall provide the Implementing Rules and Regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act. The



Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be published in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Section 10. *Funding Source.*** – An initial allocation of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be included in the General Appropriations to support the policies and objectives under this Act. Congress shall provide subsequent appropriations in the annual budget of the Department of Health from sin tax revenues.

**Section 11. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision of this Act be declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts not affected thereby shall remain valid and operational.

**Section 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 13. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

***Approved,***