

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. **3399**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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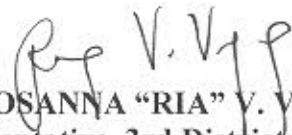
Introduced by **Hon. ROSANNA "RIA" V. VERGARA**

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The *barangay*, also known as the barrio during the Spanish era, is the smallest administrative unit in the Philippines. It is the basic template for grassroots democracy in action. The *barangay* captains and other *barangay* officials are thus our local community leaders who help in keeping the peace and in providing security in their locale, among others.

As far back as 20 June 1959, Republic Act 2370 or the Barrio Charter Act changed the council along with the Barrio Lieutenant from appointed positions to elected positions. In 1974, President Marcos issued Presidential Decree (PD) No. 557, declaring all barrios in the Philippines as *barangays*, as the basic political unit after its revival under PD No. 86. Landmark changes in the powers and responsibilities of the *barangay* system came about with the Local Government Code of 1991, which explicitly tagged the *barangay* as the basic political unit," serving as "the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects, and activities in the community, and as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled".

Despite this key role in our country, however, our *barangay* officials are not considered members of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). This bill seeks to change this unreasonable state of affairs. It will thus augment the meager compensation and benefits enjoyed by *barangay* officials by including them in the coverage of the GSIS Law. The early adoption of this measure is thus earnestly requested.

  
**ROSANNA "RIA" V. VERGARA**  
Representative, 3rd District of Nueva Ecija

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1 AN ACT  
2 AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, ALSO KNOWN AS THE  
3 GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997,  
4 EXPANDING THE MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS OF THE GOVERNMENT  
5 SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM TO COVER BARANGAY OFFICIALS

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

6 Section 1. The coverage of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is  
7 hereby expanded by including barangay officials as members of the System. Section 2(i) of  
8 Republic Act No. 8291, otherwise known as the “Government Service Insurance System Act  
9 of 1997”, is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 “(i) Compensation – The basic pay or salary received by an employee, pursuant to his  
11 election/ appointment, excluding per diems, bonuses, overtime pay, honoraria, allowances  
12 and any other emoluments received in addition to the basic pay which are not integrated into  
13 the basic pay under existing laws. IN THE CASE OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED  
14 BARANGAY OFFICIALS, THEIR COMPENSATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF  
15 DETERMINING THEIR CONTRIBUTION, SHALL BE COMPUTED BY ADDING THE  
16 AMOUNT OF THE HONORARIA, ALLOWANCES, AND SUCH OTHER  
17 COMPENSATION THAT THEY REGULARLY RECEIVE AS MAY BE ALLOWED BY  
18 LAW OR ORDINANCE.

19 Section 2. The premium contribution and thereafter, the standard monthly  
20 contributions, shall be borne by the LGU concerned; Provided, that the National Government

1 shall subsidize fifty percent (50%) of the contributions of fourth, fifth, and sixth class  
2 municipalities.

3       Upon passage of this Act, barangay officials shall be automatically entitled to the  
4 retirement, disability, burial benefits, and other supplemental benefits, as enumerated under  
5 Republic Act No. 8291 or the "Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997".  
6 Barangay officials shall not be required to pay monthly contributions and all other fees or  
7 charges for them to be entitled to these benefits.

8       Section 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within three (3) months after the  
9 passage of this Act, the GSIS in consultation and in coordination with the Department of  
10 Interior and Local Government and the league representing barangay captains and officials,  
11 shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act. The  
12 rules and regulations shall cover the rate of premiums and the manner of its payment, the  
13 extent of insurance coverage, and the participation of the local government units and the  
14 National Government.

15       Section 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof is held invalid or  
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
17 valid and subsisting.

18       Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
19 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, ordinance, or regulation contrary to or  
20 inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended  
21 accordingly.

22       Section 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
23 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.