

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2448**



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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill proposes to provide barangay tanods and barangay health workers corresponding honorariums in order to help ease their financial burdens. It further proposes to provide the barangay officials and volunteer workers with programs for capacity building and improved barangay governance.

As the basic political unit, the barangays serve as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies and programs, as iterated in the Local Government Code of 1991. The bill proposed aims to uphold local autonomy as intended by the Constitution and the Local Government Code.

In addition to the proposed 500 pesos to a barangay health worker and to at least 20 tanods in each barangay, the barangays are also given the option to give additional honorarium to the aforementioned volunteers. Trainings and programs shall also be provided as well as Philhealth coverage and free legal services from the Public Attorney's Office.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**AN ACT**

**Strengthening the barangay unit through support for barangay officials and barangay volunteer workers, amending republic act no. 7160, providing funds therefor, and for other purposes**

*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 "Support for Barangay Workers Act".

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared policy of the State to empower and strengthen our Barangay Volunteer Workers in order to sufficiently provide front line government services to the Filipino people in the barangay level. The State acknowledges the need to provide for the financial burden of rendering service and the need to properly compensate and capacitate Barangay Officials and Volunteers. Furthermore, the State recognizes the need to ensure continuity of programs, projects and services of each barangay in order to effectively benefit our people.

**SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Barangay Health Worker (BHW) – a person who has undergone training programs under any accredited government or non-government organization

and who voluntarily renders primary health care services in the community after having been accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH); and

- b. Barangay Tanod – all duly appointed members of the barangay tanod brigades, which shall not be more than twenty (20) in each barangay as prescribed by Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

**SECTION 4. *Honorarium of BHWs and Barangay Tanods.*** – In order to ease the financial burden on our barangay officials and volunteers, the following benefits shall be given by the National Government for services rendered by the following Barangay Workers:

- a. One (1) BHW in each Barangay shall receive a monthly honorarium of not less than Five Hundred (500) pesos from the DOH.
- b. At least twenty (20) Tanods, in each barangay, shall receive a monthly honorarium of not less than Five Hundred (500) pesos from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The Barangays may choose to give additional honorarium to the aforementioned volunteers. Provided, that such additional honorarium shall be charged against the local budgets of each barangay. Provided further, that Barangays shall ensure that all BHWs receive the same honorarium.

**SECTION 5. *Capacity Building for Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers.*** – In addition to financial benefits, the National Government shall provide the following to Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers:

- a. Training and workshops on how to effectively exercise their duty provided by the DILG for Tanods and DOH for BHWs, and any other such training fit for Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers.
- b. Philhealth coverage for BHWs, which shall medical examination and treatment in government hospitals, and fully subsidized by the National



Government through the DOH. Provided, that indigent barangay volunteers shall be covered through the full National Government subsidy scheme.

- c. Free legal services from government lawyers or the Public Attorney's Office for cases arising from acts committed in the performance of duty. Provided, that such legal services shall continue, even after the expiration of the term of the Barangay volunteer, until its final disposition.

**SECTION 6. *Continuity of Barangay Services.*** – In order to ensure the continuity of Barangay Services, the term of office of all elected barangay officials after the effectivity of this Act shall be five (5) years.

No barangay elective official shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position.

The power of the DILG regarding suspension, removal, recall, and other disciplinary actions against offending Barangay Official, as prescribed by Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, shall be in full force and effect under this Act.

**SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DILG, in consultation with the National Liga ng mga Barangay, DOH, and the Commission on Elections, shall issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval.

**SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*