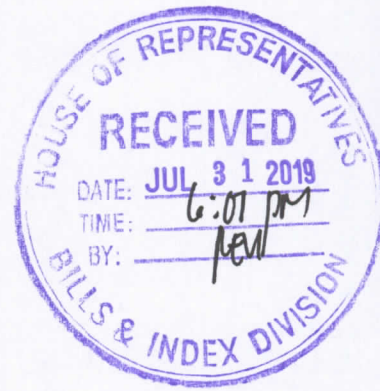


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3291**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN EVERY
BARANGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FURTHER EXPANDING THE
BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The barangay is the foundational unit of Philippine governance; the first port of call for every Filipino citizen. It must, as such, provide optimal basic services that will address the everyday concerns of the people—from concern about peace and order, to concerns about sanitation and waste management, to concerns about medical and dental care.

Affordable and accessible health care is an especially glaring concern, particularly in far-flung areas that are yet to have easy access to hospitals. Even in urban areas, steep prices often bar underprivileged sectors from seeking necessary medical attention. There is a need, then, to better our barangay-level health care system, in order for our people to receive immediate medical attention through an accessible and affordable avenue.

Health services are a mandated function of the barangay, as per Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, which states that the barangay shall provide "health and social welfare services which include maintenance of barangay health center and day-care." But while RA 7160 mandates that the barangay provide health services, it does not mandate the appointment of full-time health workers to ably deliver said services.

This bill seeks to address that oversight by ensuring that every barangay will have a proportionate number of accredited full-time health workers, thereby guaranteeing that the barangay fulfills its obligation to provide health services. These health workers shall be appointed by the municipal or city mayor, given that they are accredited by the local health board. These health workers will have security of tenure.

With the designation of barangay health workers, citizens in all corners of the nation will be able to enjoy their right to accessible, affordable, and quality health care.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is urgently sought.



ALFRED VARGAS

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Barangay Health Workers Act of 2019.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – Pursuant to Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the State hereby declares the policy of according utmost importance to the health needs of the nation and shall henceforth endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. Toward this end, the State shall ensure that accessible and quality health services are extended to each individual through the barangay health workers as the primary channel for implementing the State’s health policies down to the barangay health needs the State shall guarantee the appointment of a health workers in every barangay as frontline health workers.

SEC. 3. Coverage. –The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all barangay health workers accredited to act as such by the local health board in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Health (DOH). 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.

SEC. 4. Section 387 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, shall be further amended to read as follows:

“Section 387. Chief Officials and Officers. – (a) There shall be in each barangay a *Punong Barangay*, seven (7) *Sangguniang Barangay members*, the *Sangguniang Kabataan chairman*, a *barangay secretary*, (and) a *barangay treasurer*, **AND AT LEAST FIVE (5) BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS: PROVIDED, THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF**

BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS PER BARANGAY SHALL IN NO CASE BE MORE THAN 1% OF THE BARANGAY'S TOTAL POPULATION."

SEC. 5. A New provision shall be inserted between Section 359 and 396 of the same Act to be denominated as Section 395-A, which shall read as follows:

"SECTION 395-A. APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS - THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER AS ACCREDITED AND RECOMMENDED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY HEALTH BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BENEFITS ACT OF 1996, SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MUNICIPAL OR CITY MAYOR OF THE AREA WHERE SUCH BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER WILL BE APPOINTED IS LOCATED. A BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO HONORARIA, ALLOWANCES AND SUCH OTHER BENEFITS TO WHICH OTHER APPOINTED BARANGAY OFFICIALS MAY BE ENTITLED TO. NO PERSON DULYAPPOINTED AS A BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER SHALL BE REMOVED EXCEPT FOR VALID CAUSE AS PROVIDED UNDER EXISTING CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS AND ONLY AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING."

SEC. 6. Section 393, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 393. Benefits of Barangay Officials. -

(a) Barangay officials, including barangay tanods, and members of the lupongtagapamayapa, shall receive honoraria, allowances, and such other emoluments as may be authorized by law or barangay, municipal or city ordinance in accordance with the provisions of this Code, but in no case shall it be less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per month for the punong barangay and Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per month for the sangguniang barangay members, barangay treasurer, [and] barangay secretary **AND BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS:** Provided, however, That the annual appropriations for personal services shall be subject to budgetary limitations prescribed under Title Five, Book II of this Code: **PROVIDED FURTHERMORE, THAT THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY THIS CODE SHALL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE APPLICATION OF AND ENTITLEMENT TO OTHER INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AS MAY BE PROVIDED BY LAW SUCH AS REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6942 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT.**

(b) The Punong Barangay, the Sangguniang Barangay members the Barangay treasurer, [and] the Barangay secretary **AND THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS** shall also: x x

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, shall within ninety (90) days from the enactment of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Separability Clause. – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, and administrative regulations or parts hereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in at least two national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.