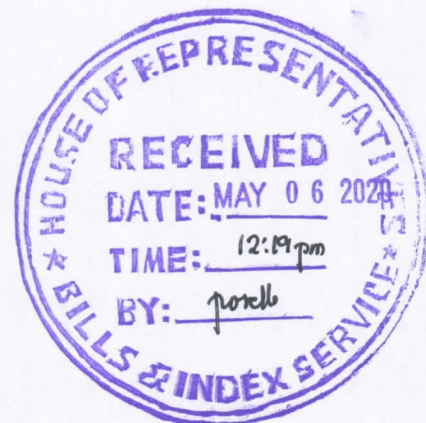


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6695



Introduced by REP. PRINCESS RIHAN M. SAKALURAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 The recent COVID-19 pandemic brought financial, economic and health concerns
2 to everyone. Businesses have been asked to close, employees requested to stay at home
3 basically putting majority of the country's population safely tucked in the confines of
4 their homes. At the same time, essential employees and first responders particularly
5 those in the health and medical sectors have been doubling their efforts to contain the
6 pandemic. Physicians, nurses, technicians have been taking longer shifts, skipping
7 meals, and risking their own health all because they chose to stand by their oath as
8 health professionals.

9
10 Despite putting themselves at risk, these workers willingly do their jobs so that
11 the situation improve and everyone get back their normal lives. Some of these doctors
12 fell ill and have been in critical condition, and many more have been placed at even
13 higher risk. Our doctors, nurses, and all other health workers do not deserve this. At
14 the same time, this did not go unnoticed. Several groups and private individuals have
15 observed their dedication and have even dedicated specific times of the day to thank
16 these health and medical workers and first responders in their own way. Placards and
17 sign boards have been placed in windows and walls to publicly show the appreciation
18 to them.

19
20 However, these are not enough and these workers and their families should be
21 protected and secured for the services they render in these troubling times. As such, a
22 law granting health and medical workers and first responders special financial and
23 monetary benefits should be passed so that, if they get sick, their families will have the
24 financial means to move on with their lives. Our health and medical workers and first
25 responders deserve not only our salute, but also our protection. It is for these reasons
26 that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


PRINCESS RIHAN M. SAKALURAN

Representative

1st District, Sultan Kudarat

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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 6695

Introduced by REP. PRINCESS RIHAN M. SAKALURAN

1 **AN ACT**
2 **PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL COMPENSATION AND SURVIVORSHIP**
3 **ASSISTANCE TO COVID 19 HEALTH AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND**
4 **FIRST RESPONDERS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE**
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the*
7 *Philippines in Congress assembled:*
8

9 *SECTION 1. Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Appreciation Act
10 of 2020.”
11

12 *SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect
13 and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness
14 among them. In recognition of the substantial role that health workers play as
15 forerunners in the implementation of the said State policy, the State shall
16 endeavor to promote the health and safety of health workers, especially in times
17 of public health emergency, outbreaks, and pandemic.
18

19 The Act is intended to help the members of the medical, health
20 professionals and personnel, the first responders and their immediate family who
21 risk their lives during the entire duration of the COVID 19 Pandemic and to those
22 who died in the performance of their duty.
23

24 *SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:
25

- 26 a) “Health worker” shall include all persons who are engaged in health
27 and health-related work, whether employed in a private hospital or
28 health facility or public hospital, sanatoria, health infirmaries,
29 health centers, rural health units, barangay health stations, clinics
30 and other health-related establishments owned and operated by the
31 Government or its political subdivisions with original charters.

1 b) "First responder" shall include all person with specialized training
2 who is among the first to arrive and provide assistance at the scene
3 of an emergency, such as an accident, natural disaster,
4 or terrorism. First responders typically include law enforcement
5 officers, state troopers, deputies, federal agents, school resource
6 officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, firefighters,
7 rescuers, military personnel, sanitation workers, public works, and
8 other trained members of organization connected with this type of
9 work.

10
11 SECTION 4. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all health and medical
12 personnel and first responders who risked their lives during the entire duration
13 of the COVID 19 Pandemic and to those who died in the performance of their
14 duty.

15
16 SECTION 5. *Compensation.* – Financial assistance in the equivalent of the
17 persons three (3) month salary shall be received by the health and medical
18 personnel and first responders who are covered under this Act from the State
19 and are free of tax. *Provided,* In case of death of the health and medical personnel
20 and first responders who are covered under this Act, their families shall receive
21 additional benefits such as one million pesos (1,000,000.00) death benefit. Such
22 death benefit is also free of tax.

23
24 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the
25 provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General
26 Appropriations Act for the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

27
28 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is
29 held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts unaffected
30 shall remain in full force and effect.

31
32 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential
33 decrees or issuances, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and
34 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
35 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

36
37 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
38 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
39 circulation.

40
41 Approved,