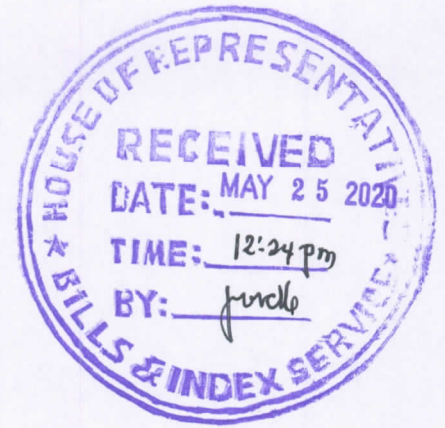


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

18th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6796



Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The deadly COVID19 pandemic that hit the country and the world has caused a serious health crisis which disrupted our normal way of life and the way we conduct work, business and our general day to day activities. The highly infectious disease has proven to be a challenge most especially to our medical health workers such as doctors, nurses, medical technologists and other health workers. It also poses a threat to other workers in the frontlines such as law enforcement personnel, barangay workers and other essential employees.

They are the so-called frontliners in the fight against COVID 19. They risk their lives and the health of their families as well, to serve and fight against the pandemic and a number of them has paid the ultimate sacrifice in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities in order for us to live and to ensure our people are safe and our basic needs are met in the midst of this raging war against an unseen enemy.

In the backdrop of the present and future health and socio-economic crisis that will be brought about by pandemics, epidemics, natural or man-made calamities and other health and safety hazards, it is but fitting to entitle our frontliners to hazard pay in recognition of their sacrifices and risks encountered in their service to humanity and the nation.

This humble representation believes that no amount of monetary compensation is ever enough to fully compensate for the risks associated during these types of situations and the sacrifices our frontliners must endure to perform their tasks, the entitlement of hazard pay will be a morale booster to them in continuing to serve for our people.

In further driving home the point of this proposed measure, let me quote a statement made by the president of the US National Association for Home Care and Hospice in an article about frontliners' hazard pay which says, *"While those risks can be*

mitigated by way of appropriate protective equipment, training and everything else, the risk is still there. Risk in itself, generally, deserves financial support – and not just a pat on the back.”

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of the bill is earnestly sought.



ERICO ARISTOTLE C. AUMENTADO

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AN ACT

PROVIDING HAZARD PAY TO ALL FRONTLINERS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS AND OTHER ESSENTIAL WORKERS DURING PANDEMICS, EPIDEMICS, OUTBREAKS, NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

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

SECTION 1. **Declaration of Policy** - it is hereby declared a policy of the State to constantly strengthen the support to frontliners and other essential workers of the country during the health emergencies by providing them with additional compensation to ensure financial security.

SECTION 2. **Hazard Pay** - a) Frontliners with direct contact with the patients or with high risk exposure to hazards, private or public employees who are required to report for duty during pandemics, epidemics, outbreak natural or man-made disasters shall receive an additional One Thousand Pesos (Php. 1,000.00) compensation per day of work without tax.

b) Frontliners and other essential workers of public and private sectors who are required to report for duty but not in direct contact or exposed to hazards during pandemics, epidemics, outbreaks, natural, man-made disasters shall receive an additional Five Hundred Pesos (Php. 500.00) compensation per day of work without tax.

SECTION 3. **Scope** – The coverage of this Act shall include all frontliners regular, contractual, job order employees including barangay health workers.

SECTION 4. **Prohibition against Elimination or Diminution of Benefits** – This additional remuneration shall affect or reduce any of the existing benefits under the current policies of the State and all concerned agencies.

SECTION 5. **Effectivity** - this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in official gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.