

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3101**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino nurses are some of the best in the world, and for many years, the high demand for their services here and abroad spurred a steady increase in the number of Filipinos seeking careers in the nursing industry. In recent years, however, that international demand has decreased, leading to an unfortunate saturation of the industry which has led to many of our nurses being underemployed or unemployed.

The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) estimated that there are at least 300,000 unemployed nurses in the country¹. This number presents both a challenge and an opportunity, for the government is placed in a position to enable our nurses to practice their chosen profession in a manner that benefits them as well as local communities, particularly those in need of professional medical assistance such as distant barangays underserved by government health centers. For the government to tap our pool of qualified yet unemployed nurses will be a win for all involved.

This bill, filed as a counterpart of Senate Bill No. 726 with the support of its author, Senator Cynthia Villar, enacts a program whereby the government mobilizes our population of unemployed nurses in order to dispatch at least one registered nurse to every barangay in the Philippines, their duties to include not only direct health services but education with regard to the importance of health, hygiene, sanitation, and wellness.

Emmeline Y. Villar

EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY – VILLAR
Representative, DIWA Party-list

¹<http://www.manilatimes.net/in-need-of-nurses-and-nurses-in-need/69332/>

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES, ASSIGNING ONE
REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

*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 the “A Nurse in Every Barangay Act of 2016”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies. – The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare. Towards this end, it is further declared the policy of the State to promote a sustained and cultivated reservoir of national talents, preserving the skills and aptitude of our trained professionals, particularly our nurses, through the utilization and maximization of their medical knowledge that will likewise help promote the right of the people to health, thereby achieving the realization of a healthy and productive citizenry.

SECTION 3. Program of the Employment of Nurses in Every Barangay. – There is hereby established a Program for the Employment of Nurses in every barangay, for the purpose of improving the delivery of public health care services, and to provide relevant and timely education on wellness, hygiene, sanitation and other health safety measures to the poorest communities in rural areas as well as underprivileged communities in the urban areas, while providing gainful employment to registered nurses and utilizing their professional competencies.

SECTION 4. Role of Local Government Units. –Each local government unit is mandated to employ one (1) registered nurse in every barangay within their jurisdiction.

SECTION 5. Recruitment, Selection, and Training. – The local government units shall secure the assistance of the Department of Health in recruiting, selecting, and in training the registered nurses employed by Local government units to ensure their capability in addressing public health and wellness concerns of the barangays.

For this purpose, the Department of Health is hereby mandated to issue guidelines setting the qualifications of nurses to be deployed to the barangays as well as come up with a module for the relevant training of these nurses. The guidelines to be set shall in no case discriminate against the hiring of fresh graduates or newly passed registered nurses.

SECTION 6. Minimum Qualification of Nurses. – Nurses engaged under the program shall have the following minimum qualifications: must have a valid RN license issued by the Professional Regulatory Commission; must be willing to relocate to its assigned area, even temporarily; and must have passion for public health concerns.

SECTION 7. Stipend. – Nurses employed under the program shall be entitled to a monthly stipend preferably equal to salary grade 15, consistent with the mandatory minimum entry-level pay for government nurses under the Philippine Nursing Act of 2002, or Republic Act No. 9173.

SECTION 8. Certification. – Nurses under this program are required to provide an annual health status report regarding the average health and wellness of the barangay and must provide suggestions to the local government units to improve the health and wellness of all citizens of the barangay.

SECTION 9. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to implement the program under this Act shall be initially appropriated out of the funds of the respective local government units. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the full implementation of this program shall be included in the respective budget of the local government units in the General Appropriation Act.

SECTION 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty days (60) from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and DOH shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 12. Repealing Clause. — Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 13. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,