

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

**EIGHTEENTH (18<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS**  
*1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3025**



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Introduced by **Hon. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to mandate the deployment of at least one (1) registered midwife in every *barangay* in the country.

In a country where poverty remains to be one of the toughest challenges to overcome, poor and unemployed mothers' struggle to find ways of putting a meal on their table is constant. Their health and that of their children take the back seat. These poor mothers are highly at risk of dying due to pregnancy and childbirth because of the lack of access to quality health services.

The lack of adequate parental care and access to health services forced pregnant women to give birth in their homes with no skilled birth professional in attendance. These mothers surely do not receive postpartum/postnatal care. In such instances, infant and maternal mortality is not uncommon.

Infant and maternal mortality rate are still alarmingly high in the country. Data shows that we have one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the region. According to a data on maternal mortality ratio for the Philippines by World Bank<sup>1</sup>, the Philippine Maternal Mortality is at 115 per 100,000 live births as of 2015. These new born babies lose their mothers before they even have the ability to open their eyes. A huge improvement from the 162 maternal deaths in

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<sup>1</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?locations=PH>

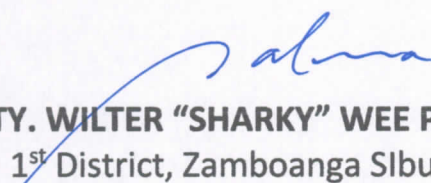
2010 but still a far cry from the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) target of reducing it to 52 maternal deaths.

Over the years, the country has seen progress for services and programs for mother and children such as *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps), public-private partnerships, inter-city health agreements and referral system, national health insurance coverage, enactment of reproductive health law, and healthcare innovations in local government units. Despite the same, it remains a challenge for the local government units, especially in far flung barangays, to have access to maternal healthcare professionals such as midwives.

This bill seeks to mandate the employment of at least one (1) registered midwife in every barangay in the country to complement with existing professional medical personnel in the locality. This will ensure that medical personnel will be readily available to provide prenatal and post natal care, breastfeeding support, providing information on the importance of immunization and proper vaccination, care and nutrition for both mothers and infants.

Consequently, this bill seeks to be guided by the recommended ratio of one (1) midwife for every 5,000 population. The number of midwives will also be increased in barangays where the residents exceed 5,000.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



**ATTY. WILTER "SHARKY" WEE PALMA II**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Zamboanga Sibugay



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**HOUSE BILL NO. 3025**

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Introduced By **HON. WILTER “SHARKY” WEE PALMA II**

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**AN ACT**

**MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF ONE MIDWIFE FOR EACH BARANGAY, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1        **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Midwife to the**  
2        **Barangay Act.**”

3        **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the  
4        State to equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from  
5        conception. Likewise, it shall prioritize the right to health of the people and instil  
6        health consciousness among them. Pursuant to this, the Senate shall adopt an  
7        integrated approach to health development which shall endeavour to make  
8        essential goods, health and other social services available to all peoples.

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11 The state recognizes the vital role played by midwives in reducing maternal  
12 and newborn child mortality. Toward this end, this Act shall mandate the  
13 appointment of midwives for each barangay to improve our maternal healthcare  
14 as well as give our people wider access to health services.

15 **SECTION 3. Objectives.** – The objectives of this Act are as follows:

16 a) To reduce maternal mortality rate (MMR) in the country;

17 b) To improve maternal and neonatal health; and

18 c) To provide quality and efficient healthcare services, especially in the  
19 field of maternal and infant healthcare.

20 **SECTION 4. Ratio of Midwives to the Barangay.** – It shall be mandatory for  
21 all barangays with population exceeding five thousand (5,000) to be equipped  
22 with one (1) midwife; *Provided*, that if the population of a barangay exceeds five  
23 thousand (5,000), the number of midwives shall be increased, as may be  
24 determined by the Department of Health (DOH).

25 **SECTION 5. Role of Midwives to the Barangay.** – It is the role of the  
26 midwife to assess the condition of mothers during their pregnancy, labor, and  
27 after birth; monitor and examine pregnant mothers; to assist the pregnant  
28 mothers during labor and delivery; make diagnosis and assessment of the  
29 mother's condition and shall refer to obstetricians and other specialist in the  
30 occurrence of any abnormality; ensure quality and essential health and nutritional  
31 care services to both mother and their new born; provide breastfeeding support;  
32 providing information on the importance of immunization and vaccination as  
33 provided for in the DOH Expanded Program for Immunization.

34 **SECTION 6. Qualifications of Midwives.** – Within one (1) month from the  
35 passage of this Act, DOH shall provide Basic Emergency Obstetric Care and  
36 Newborn Care training, or such similar trainings as the DOH may deem necessary,  
37 to all midwives to the barangays. Thereafter, the DOH is hereby mandated to  
38 provide a Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care and Newborn Care training,



39 and such other trainings deemed necessary, at least once in every fiscal year after  
40 this Act shall have taken effect.

41 **SECTION 7.** The DOH shall promulgate such rules and regulations to ensure  
42 that all midwives to the barangays are provided for with all trainings it may deem  
43 necessary, and in such frequency as it may determine.

44 **SECTION 8. *Appointment of Midwives to the Barangay.*** – Priority in the  
45 appointment of midwives shall be given to remote areas where no existing health  
46 care professionals provide healthcare service to the population. Areas that are  
47 determined by the DOH to have high maternal mortality rate shall also be given  
48 preference in the appointment of midwives.

49 **SECTION 9. *Compensation and Benefits.*** – The DOH shall promulgate rules  
50 and guidelines to provide adequate compensation to midwives to the barangays.  
51 The midwives to the barangays shall also be entitled to all benefits provided in  
52 Republic Act No. 7305, otherwise known as the “*Magna Carta for Public Health*  
53 *Workers.*”

54 **SECTION 10. *Appropriation.*** – From the passage of this Act, and for a  
55 period of two (2) succeeding calendar years, all appropriations for the proper  
56 adoption and implementation of this Act shall be charged to the annual  
57 appropriation of the DOH. Thereafter, such funds as may be necessary for the  
58 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the appropriations of  
59 the respective Local Government Units where the barangays are located.

60 **SECTION 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DOH, in  
61 cooperation and consultation with the Department of Interior and Local  
62 Government, the Civil Service Commission, Department of Budget and  
63 Management and all other concerned government agencies, shall issue and adopt  
64 rules and guidelines necessary for the prompt and proper implementation of this  
65 Act.

66        **SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
67        unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder or any provisions thereof is not  
68        affected shall remain in force and effect.

69        **SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules  
70        and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
71        hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

72        **SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
73        after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general  
74        circulation.

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76        ***Approved,***