

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 3312



Introduced by **REP. CAMILLE A. VILLAR**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES, ASSIGNING AT LEAST ONE
REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a backgrounder, the Philippine economy experienced a surge in growth in 2001 due to the increased demand for Filipino professionals abroad, foremost of which is the demand for registered nurses. This demand for Filipino nurses abroad indeed helped to fuel the Philippine economy with the remittances to the country sent by the Filipino nurses abroad. However, the foreign demand for Filipino nurses has waned through the years, thus leaving many of our nurses unemployed and/or underemployed here in the Philippines. As of January 2014, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) estimated that there are at least 300,000 unemployed nurses in the country¹ and this figure is believed to have increased 5 years hence.

The unemployment and/or underemployment of our nurses here or their non-deployment for abroad should not be considered a problem, but must be viewed as an opportunity. The vast resources of competent Filipino nurses actually presents a welcome opportunity for our government to improve the delivery of health services in the country, particularly in far-flung barangays normally not catered by the conventional government health centers. The government may engage the services of the nurses to be at the forefront of the government health care programs.

In this connection, the attached bill proposes that the government mobilize and utilize these unemployed or underemployed nurses by dispatching at least one registered nurse to every barangay in the Philippines. This will not only address the problem of the unemployment and underemployment of our professional nurses, but will be considered a leap in improving the health service delivery in the country.

¹ Herrera, E. In need of nurses and nurses in need. The Manila Times. 24 January 2014.

The duties of each dispatched nurse include educating their respective barangays on the importance of health, hygiene, sanitation, and wellness. Their goal is not only to address the immediate medical needs of the community, but also, through education, to prevent illnesses and ailments. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

In view of the foregoing, I recommend the immediate passage of this bill.



CAMILLE A. VILLAR
Representative
Lone District, Las Piñas City

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

1 Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “A Nurse in Every
2 Barangay Act of 2019”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 *Sec. 7. Stipend.* – Nurses employed under the program shall be entitled to a
16 monthly stipend preferably equal to salary grade 15, consistent with the mandatory
17 minimum entry-level pay for government nurses under the Philippine Nursing Act of
18 2002, or Republic Act No. 9173.

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

23 *Sec. 9. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the program
24 under this Act shall be initially appropriated out of the funds of the respective local
25 government units. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the full implementation of
26 this program shall be included in the respective budget of the local government units
27 in the General Appropriation Act.

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

32 *Sec. 11. Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is
33 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions
34 hereof not affected thereby shall continue to be in force and effect.

1 Sec. 12. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
2 executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent or contrary to the
3 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following
5 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

6 Approved,