

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 2099

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Introduced by REP. MARK A. VILLAR

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7883 provides that it shall be the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to provide conditions for health empowerment, where each individual has access to information and services that will bring about health and well-being. The Primary Health Care Approach is recognized as the major strategy towards health empowerment, emphasizing the need to provide accessible and acceptable health services through participatory strategies such as health education, training of barangay health workers, community building and organizing.

Barangay health workers (BHWs) are the front-liners in the campaign towards health empowerment. As such, the aforesaid law provides incentives and benefits to all accredited BHWs who are actively and regularly performing their duties such as hazard and subsistence allowance, educational programs, scholarships, civil service eligibility, free legal services and preferential access to loan.

While much has been afforded by the aforesaid law to the BHWs, there is still a need to provide them basic health, retirement, disability and funeral benefits. Certainly, the State has to take care of the well being of its front-line care givers.

Hence, there is a need to make the membership of all accredited BHWs to PHILHEALTH and GSIS compulsory thereby expanding and increasing the benefits they are currently receiving.



**MARK A. VILLAR**

Representative, Lone District of Las Piñas City

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**AN ACT**

**GRANTING COMPULSORY COVERAGE TO ACCREDITED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE OR GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883**

1 **Section 1.** Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7883, otherwise known as the  
2 "Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995," is hereby  
3 amended by adding new subsections to read as follows:

4 "SEC. 6. Incentives and Benefits. --

5 "(F) PHILHEALTH COMPULSORY COVERAGE. -- ALL BARANGAY HEALTH  
6 WORKERS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS SHALL BE ENROLLED IN THE  
7 NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM TO ENABLE THEM TO  
8 RECEIVE AND AVAIL OF AN ADEQUATE PACKAGE OF PERSONAL HEALTH  
9 SERVICES INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO IN-PATIENT HOSPITAL CARE,  
10 OUT-PATENT CARE, EMERGENCY AND TRANSFER SERVICES, AND ALSO  
11 OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS, AS MAY BE PROVIDED IN  
12 THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHIC) AND THE  
13 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LOU) WHERE THEY RENDER SERVICES."

14 "(G) GSIS COMPULSORY COVERAGE. - ALL BARANGAY HEALTH  
15 WORKERS SHALL BE ENROLLED IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE  
16 INSURANCE SYSTEM TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE AND AVAIL OF THE  
17 RETIREMENT, DISABILITY AND FUNERAL BENEFITS."

18 **SEC. 2.** The premium contribution and thereafter, the standard monthly  
19 contributions, shall be borne by the LGU concerned; Provided, That the National  
20 Government shall subsidize fifty percent (50%) of the contributions of fourth, fifth  
21 and sixth class municipalities.

1 Upon the passage of this Act, the barangay health workers shall be automatically  
2 entitled to the full enjoyment and availment of essential health services, as  
3 contained in Republic Act No. 7875 or the National Health Insurance Act, and the  
4 retirement, disability and burial benefits and other supplemental benefits, as may  
5 be defined by Republic Act No. 8391 or The Government Service Insurance  
6 System Act of 1997.

7 Barangay health workers shall not be required to pay monthly contributions and  
8 all other fees or charges for them to be entitled to these benefits.

9 **SEC. 3. Oversight Provision.** - Congress shall conduct a regular review of this  
10 program which shall primarily evaluate its implementation with regard to its  
11 impact and accomplishments. Such review shall be jointly undertaken by the  
12 appropriate committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives which  
13 have legislative jurisdiction over this program.

14 **SEC. 4. Rules and Regulations.** - The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation  
15 and the Government Service Insurance System, in consultation and coordination  
16 with the appropriate government agencies, such as, but not limited to, the  
17 Department of Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government,  
18 Department of Budget and Management, and the leagues of governors, vice  
19 governors, mayors, and barangay captains of the Philippines, shall formulate  
20 within one hundred twenty (120) days the rules and regulations necessary to  
21 implement this Act.

22 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid, the  
23 remainder or any of the provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain in  
24 force and effect.

25 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential  
26 issuances and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which  
27 are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
28 accordingly.

29 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
30 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.