

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **248**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Local Government Code of 1991 recognizes the role of the barangay as the “primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects and activities in the community; as a forum wherein the collective views of people may be expressed, crystallized and considered; and where disputes may be amicably settled.” There is, in effect, a compelling need to empower barangay officials and volunteers and to properly compensate their efforts.

This proposed legislation, initially filed by former Representative Leni Gerona-Robredo (now Vice President) during the 16th Congress, intends to strengthen barangay governance through financial empowerment, capacity building and continuity of service by (i) granting honoraria to barangay health workers and tanods; (ii) providing trainings, workshops, free legal services and PhilHealth coverage to barangay officials and volunteers; and (iii) giving barangay officials a 5-year term of office. As a respected political scientist puts it, good and effective governance must begin with the smallest political unit. The barangay must, therefore, be given additional leeways to fulfil its role as a veritable catalyst of inclusive growth and development at the grassroots level.

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



Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.

Representative, Third District of Camarines Sur

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1 **AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY UNIT THROUGH SUPPORT**
2 **FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND BARANGAY VOLUNTEER**
3 **WORKERS, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7160, PROVIDING FUNDS**
4 **THERFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”**
5
6

7 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as “**The Barangay Reform Act of 2016.**”

8 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared policy of the state to empower and strengthen our
9 Barangay Officials and Barangay Volunteer Workers in order to sufficiently provide front line government
10 services to the Filipino people in the barangay level. The State acknowledges the need to provide for the
11 financial burden of rendering service and the need to properly compensate and capacitate Barangay
12 Officials and Volunteers. Furthermore, the State recognizes the need to ensure continuity of programs,
13 projects and services of each barangay in order to effectively benefit our people.

14 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following shall mean:

- 15 a) **Barangay Health Worker (BHW)** shall refer to a person who has undergone training
16 programs under any accredited government and non-government organization and who
17 voluntarily renders primary health care services in the community after having been
18 accredited to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the guidelines
19 promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH); and
20
21 b) **Barangay Tanod** shall refer to all duly appointed members of the barangay tanod
22 brigades, which shall number not more than twenty (20) in each barangay as prescribed by
23 Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991.

24 **Sec 4. Honorarium of BHWs and Barangay Tanods.** – In order to ease the financial burden on our
25 barangay officials and volunteers, the following benefits shall be given by the National Government for
26 services rendered by the following Barangay Workers:

- 27 a) One(1) BHW in each Barangay shall receive a monthly honorarium of, not less than, Five
28 Hundred (500) pesos from the Department of Health.
29 b) At least twenty Tanods, in each barangay, shall receive a monthly honorarium of, not less
30 than, Five Hundred (500) pesos from the Department of Interior and Local Government

31 The Barangays may choose to give additional honorarium to the aforementioned volunteers. *Provided*, that
32 such additional honorarium shall be charged against the local budgets of each barangay. *Provided further*,
33 that Barangays shall ensure that all BHWs receive the same honorarium.

34 **Sec 5. Capacity Building for Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers** – In addition to financial
35 benefits, the National Government shall provide the following to Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers:

- 36 a) Training and workshops on how to effectively exercise their duty provided by the
37 Department of Interior and Local Government for Tanods and Department of Health for
38 BHWs, and any other such training fit for Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers.
39 b) PhilHealth coverage for BHWs, which shall include medical examination and treatment in
40 government hospitals, and fully subsidized by the National Government through the
41 Department of Health. *Provided*, that indigent barangay volunteers shall be covered
42 through the full national government subsidy scheme.
43 c) Free legal services from government lawyers or the Public Attorney's Office for cases
44 arising from acts committed in the performance of duty. *Provided*, that such legal services
45 shall continue, even after the expiration of the term of the Barangay volunteer, until its final
46 disposition.

47 **Sec 6. Continuity of Barangay Services** – In order to ensure the continuity of Barangay Services, the term
48 of office of all elected barangay officials after the effectivity of this Act shall be five (5) years.

49 No barangay elective official shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same position.

50 The power of the Department of Interior and Local Government regarding suspension, removal, recall, and
51 other disciplinary actions against offending Barangay Official, as prescribed by Republic Act 7160 otherwise
52 known as the Local Government Code of 1991, shall be in full force and effect in this Act.

53 **Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of the Interior and Local Government, in
54 consultation with the National Liga ng mga Barangay, Department of Health, and the Commission on
55 Elections, shall issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days after its
56 approval.

57 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not
58 affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

59
60 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portion thereof, as well as rules
61 and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

62
63 **Sec. 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette
64 or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,