Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3912

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE LOREN B. LEGARDA

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE BARANGAY UNIT THROUGH SUPPORT FOR
BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND BARANGAY VOLUNTEER WORKERS,
AMENDING REPUBLIC AT NO. 7160 PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Barangay, as defined by RA No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
Government Code of 1991, is the basic political unit which serves as the primary
planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects and
activities in the community. The said law considers the barangay as a forum wherein
the collective views of people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and
where disputes may be amicably settled.

In view of the mandate of the barangay government, this measure aims to ease
the financial burden of the barangay units by nationalizing the honorarium of the
Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and Tanods in each of the barangays in the
country. This bill also seeks to build the capacities of the barangay officials and
volunteers, thus, ensuring the proper and continuous implementation of the social
programs and projects in the barangays.

It is the intention of this bill to give the appropriate compensation due to our
barangay volunteers as a way of our appreciation for their dedication to our barangays.
In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

LOREN LEGARDA
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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 Barangay Reform
Act."

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

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, the following
shall mean:
a. Barangay Health Worker (BHW) shall refer to a person who has
undergone training programs under any accredited government or
non-government organization and who voluntarily renders primary
health care services in the community after having been accredited
to function as such by the local health board in accordance with the
guidelines promulgated by the Department of Health (DOH); and

b. Barangay Tanod shall refer to all duly appointed members of the
barangay tanod brigades, which shall not be more than twenty (20)
in each barangay as prescribed by Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise

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

a. One (1) BHW in each Barangay shall receive a monthly honorarium
of not less than Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) from the DOH;
and

b. At least twenty (20) Tanods, in each barangay, shall receive a
monthly honorarium of not less than Five Hundred Pesos (Php
500.00) from the Department of Interior and Local Government
(DILG).

The Barangay may choose to give additional honorarium to the aforementioned
volunteers. Provided, that such additional honorarium shall be charged against
the local budget of each barangay. Provided further, that Barangays shall
ensure that all BHWs receive the same honorarium.
SECTION 5. *Capacity Building for barangay Officials and Volunteer Worker.* —

In addition to financial benefits, the National Government shall provide the following to Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers:

a. Training and workshops on how to effectively exercise their duty provided by the DILG for Tanods and DOH for BHWs, and any other training fit for Barangay officials and Volunteer Workers.

b. Philhealth coverage for BHWs, which shall include medical examination and treatment in government hospitals, and fully subsidized by the National Government through the DOH. Provided, that indigent barangay volunteers shall be covered through the full national government subsidy scheme; and

c. Free legal services from government lawyers or the Public Attorney's Office for cases arising from acts committed in the performance of duty. Provided, that such legal services shall continue, even after the expiration of the term of the Barangay volunteer, until its final disposition.

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

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

The power of the DILG regarding suspension, removal, recall, and other disciplinary actions against offending Barangay Official, as prescribed by Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, shall be in full force and effect under this Act.
SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The DILG, in consultation with the Liga ng mga Barangay, DOH, and the Commission on Elections, shall issue the rules and regulations to implement this Act within ninety (90) days after its approval.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances or portion there as well as rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,