Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

5342

HOUSE BILL NO. ________

Introduced by REP. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay Health Workers stand in the forefront of the delivery of basic services for the smallest government unit of the nation. They are placed in the grass-roots of the community to offer the same ready and accessible health and medical services. However, their own circumstance requires attention, especially the benefits and compensation that they receive from services rendered. It is a harsh reality that many of our barangay health workers' benefits are only at the mercy of the local government's budget.

This Bill seeks to remedy such predicament. The Bill imposes a more comprehensive set of grant for the benefits, subsidy and compensation of the local health workers. It also seeks to establish a system that further protects our barangay health workers in creating a more formal registration process of registration and determination of accredited workers eligible to the grants of this measure.

The passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

REP. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL
Republic of the Philippines
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Introduced by REP. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS

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

Section 1. There shall be provided at least one (1) health worker in every barangay throughout the country. Such health worker shall be under the control and supervision of the Department of Health in close coordination with the Local Government Health Officer. As far as practicable, the barangay health worker to be employed must be living in the barangay where he/she is to be assigned, or within the city or municipality in which the barangay is to be found.

Section 2. The DOH shall develop a three-month training program for BHW applications. The first month that shall include basic orientation and training on health programs and institutionalized health service delivery system, primary healthcare, basic community organizing, local health research, basic local resource generation and mobilization, training needs analysis, basic report writing and communication skills, and program planning and development. The program will also offer seminars on basic dental care, reproductive health, STI and HIV/ AIDS prevention, nutrition, physical therapy, traditional and herbal medicine and reflexology.

As a requirement for the completion of the training program, applicants shall undergo an internship program where they will render health and community services in their own rural health units for two months to ingrate their learnings from the orientation and with community healthcare services delivery.
A certificate for the completion shall be issued by the municipal health officer to those who have finished the basic training program for barangay health work.

Section 3. The City or Municipal BHW Registration and Accreditation Committee shall evaluate applications of BHWs and process the registration and accreditation of Barangay Health Workers. The BHWRC shall propose the limitations on the number of HBWs per municipality or city based on the health needs and accessibility of health services in the area.

1. Qualifications for Registration – To qualify for registration, a BHW must undergo the DOH basic training program for BHWs.

2. Procedure of Registration – The BHW applicant shall submit to BHW-RAC his/her application and documents as may be required by the DOH. The BHW-RAC shall release the result of the screening not later than seven (7) working days after the submission of complete application of documents.

Section 4. In order for barangay health workers to be entitled to some benefits and incentives under this Act, they must be duly-accredited by the local health board. Provided, that the BHW that will be eligible for accreditation must have rendered at least one (1) year of service in his/her barangay. Accredited BHWs shall be provided with a certificate of accreditation and a BHW Privilege Card.

The local health boards, through the provincial health boards in the case of municipalities, shall furnish a copy of registered and accredited BHWs to the DOH, which is hereby mandated to maintain a national registry of barangay health workers.

Section 5. The CHDs shall be responsible in updating the BHW registry in their respective regions and shall submit an updated copy to the DOH Central Office every quarter who shall be responsible in maintaining the national BHW registry, which shall be there reference of agencies that will be providing incentives and benefits to BHWs.

Section 6. All accredited Barangay Health Workers shall be provided with a privilege card as a proof that they are entitled to the benefits and incentives granted under this Act.

The benefits and incentives are as follows:

1. Hazard Allowances;
2. Subsistence Allowances,
3. Remote Assignment Allowance;
4. PHILHEALTH Compulsory Coverage;
5. GSIS Compulsory Coverage;
6. Medical Assistance;
7. Medical Examination
8. Compensation from Work-Related Injuries;
9. Preferential Access to Loans;
10. Free Legal Services;
11. Training, Education, and Career Enrichment Programs;
12. Support for Program Scholars;
13. Accreditation of Work Experience for Degree Equivalent;
14. Grant of Scholarship to Dependents of BHWs; and
15. Civil Service Eligibility.

Section 7. No BHW shall be removed from the list of registered and accredited
BHWs of cities or municipalities except when the BHW has been proven as
non-performing, or is no longer mentally and physically fit to perform his/ her
duties, or if the BHW is guilty of medical malpractice, falsification of
documents, tampering of official government documents and of other criminal
offenses to be determined by the DOH and other concerned agencies.

Section 8. The Department of Health, in consultation with the Department
of Interior and Local Government, Civil Service Commission, Commission on
Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority,
National Confederation of Barangay Health Workers and Government Service
Insurance System, shall prepare within one hundred and eighty (180) days
the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act,
Rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty
(30) days after publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Section 9. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of
instruction, administrative order, rule, regulation or ordinance contrary to or
inconsistent with the provisions of the Act is hereby repealed, modified or
amended accordingly.

Section 10. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
circulation.

Approved,