Barangay is the basic political unit and foundation of governance and nation-building. It acts as the direct channel of the government in delivering its basic services to the citizenry. Barangay officials and barangay volunteer workers are then considered as one of the government’s frontliners in enforcing peace and order in their respective locales. However, the national government has not yet granted to them the entitlement to be justly compensated in terms of social benefits that regular government workers receive. They only receive honoraria for their services in the community.

This bill seeks to provide social security benefits to all Punong Barangays, Members of the Sangguniang Barangay, Chairperson of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurers and qualified members of the Lupong Tagamayapa, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Tanods and other barangay volunteer workers. This measure will make barangay workers entitled to enroll under the programs of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund).

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

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List
AN ACT
PROVIDING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEER WORKERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title.— This Act shall be known as the “Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers’ Social Security Benefits Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to empower government officials and public volunteer workers at the grassroots level. In line with this policy and in cognizance of the crucial role of barangay officials and volunteer workers in nation building, the State shall, through the provision of social security benefits shall protect their rights and promote their welfare.

SEC. 3. Coverage. — All Punong Barangays, Member of the Sangguniang Barangay, Chairpersons of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurers and qualified members of the Lupong Tagamayapa, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Tanods and other barangay volunteer workers shall be automatically covered by this Act: Provided, That the coverage for qualified barangay volunteer workers shall be made in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations and based on the qualification standards that may be established by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other government agencies concerned: Provided, further, That when the barangay official or volunteer worker receives a fixed salary whether in the same capacity or by virtue of a permanent appointment in any other government office, by election to another public office or by employment in the private sector, their coverage under this Act shall automatically cease and they shall then be covered under the appropriate laws: Provided, finally, That any of the abovementioned barangay official or volunteer worker who shall automatically lose coverage or cease to be covered by this Act by virtue of termination or resignation from
office for any lawful cause shall have the option to continue the coverage by paying the
required premiums thereon in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

SEC. 4. Membership of Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the
Government Service Insurance System. – The Government Service Insurance System
(GSIS) shall establish a social insurance program to provide life insurance and social
protection to barangay officials and volunteer workers in accordance with pertinent laws and
regulation.

SEC. 5. Enrolment of Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the National
Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation. – The
Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall enroll non-member barangay
officials and volunteer workers into the National Insurance Program in accordance with
pertinent laws and regulations.

SEC. 6. Member of Non-Member Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the
Voluntary Membership Program of the Home Development Mutual Fund. – The Home
Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) shall enroll non-member barangay officials and
volunteer workers into the National Insurance Program in accordance with pertinent laws and
regulations.

SEC. 7. Report to Congress. – The GSIS, PhilHealth and Pag-IBIG Fund shall submit
an annual report to Congress on the implementation of the Barangay Official and Volunteer
Workers’ Social Security Benefit Program no later than June 30 of every year. This report
shall contain the necessary actuarial studies and calculations to ensure the sustainability of
the social security benefits program and the financial stability of their respective agencies.
GSIS, PhilHealth and Pag-IBIG Fund shall submit their respective report either in printed
form or by way of electronic document.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of the
provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act following
its enactment into law.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the
effectivity of this Act, the DILG and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
shall, in coordination with the GSIS, PhilHealth and the Pag-IBIG Fund and after
consultation with the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas (LNB) and other directly affected
stakeholders, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the
provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in force
and effect.
SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,