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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 2180

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Introduced by Representative **VILMA SANTOS-RECTO**
6th District of Batangas

AN ACT
PROVIDING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND
VOLUNTEER WORKERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Explanatory Note

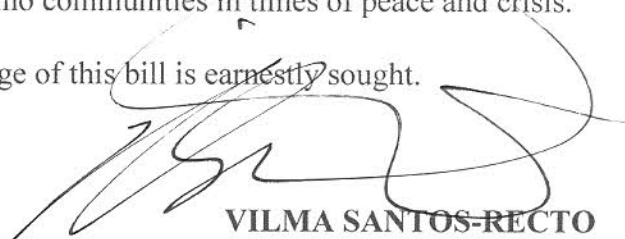
Barangay officials and volunteer workers, due to their proximity to the people, are the first and primary public service providers on matters concerning public health, public order and safety, alternative dispute resolution, and even disaster risk reduction and management. As such, the success of government plans, programs and projects, especially in the remote areas of the country depends considerably on the capacity of the barangay government to implement the laws and execute government interventions.

Yet despite the Herculean task the national government has imposed on barangay officials and volunteer workers, the national government has yet to provide the barangay officials and volunteer workers the remuneration that is commensurate with the role they perform in public service delivery. To date, barangay officials and volunteer workers such as barangay secretary, barangay treasurer, barangay health workers, barangay nutritionists, barangay tanods, barangay social workers, and others are ranked the lowest among all civil servants in terms of remuneration, benefits and privileges enjoyed and received.

This bill is endorsed in recognition of the significant contribution of barangay officials and volunteer workers in nation-building. It seeks to provide social security benefits for barangay officials and volunteer workers through government instrumentalities like the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) and Home Mutual Development Fund (PAGIBIG Fund). This bill mandates the membership and enrolment of all barangay officials and volunteer workers to the GSIS life insurance and social protection program, the PHILHEALTH National Health Insurance Program, and the PAGIBIG Fund Voluntary Membership Program.

Finally, this bill also requires the submission of a periodic report to Congress to ensure the sustainability of the program and the financial stability of the government corporations. These interventions are devised with the end in view of promoting the welfare of the people who ensure the safety, security, amity and well-being of Filipino communities in times of peace and crisis.

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


VILMA SANTOS-RECTO

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Barangay Officials and Volunteer*
2 *Workers’ Social Security Benefits Act of 2016.*”

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

8 **SEC. 3. Coverage.** – All Punong Barangays, Members of the Sangguniang Barangay,
9 Chairpersons of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurers, and
10 qualified Members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Tanods,
11 and other barangay volunteer workers shall be automatically covered by this Act: *Provided*, That
12 the coverage for qualified barangay volunteer workers shall be made in accordance with pertinent
13 laws and regulations and based on the qualification standards that may be established by the
14 Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and other government
15 agencies concerned: *Provided, further*, That when the barangay official or volunteer worker receives
16 a fixed salary whether in the same capacity or by virtue of a permanent appointment in any other
17 government office, by election to another public office or by employment in the private sector, their
18 coverage under this Act shall automatically cease and shall then be covered under the appropriate
19 law/s: *Provided, finally*, That any of the abovementioned barangay official or volunteer worker who
20 shall automatically lose coverage or cease to be covered by this Act by virtue of termination or
21 resignation from office for any lawful cause shall have the option to continue the coverage by
22 paying the required premiums thereon in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

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

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

10 **SEC. 6.***Membership of Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers in the Voluntary*
11 *Membership Program of the Home Mutual Development Fund.* – The Home Mutual Development
12 Fund (PAGIBIG Fund) shall enroll non-member barangay officials and volunteer workers into the
13 PAGIBIG Fund Voluntary Membership Program in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

14 **SEC. 7.***Report to Congress.* - The GSIS, PHILHEALTH and PAGIBIG Fund shall submit
15 an annual report to Congress on the Barangay Officials and Volunteer Workers' Social Security
16 Benefit Program. This report shall contain the necessary actuarial studies and calculations to ensure
17 the sustainability of the social security benefits program and the financial stability of their
18 respective agencies. GSIS, PHILHEALTH and PAGIBIG Fund shall submit their respective report
19 either in printed form or by way of electronic document.

20 **SEC. 8.***Appropriations.* –The funding requirement for the implementation of this Act shall
21 be initially sourced from existing appropriations of the DILG and any funds in the National
22 Treasury not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the implementation of
23 the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

24 **SEC. 9.***Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of
25 this Act, the DILG and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall, in coordination
26 with the GSIS, the PAGIBIG Fund, and the PHILHEALTH and after consultation with the Liga ng
27 mga Barangay sa Pilipinas (LnB) and other directly affected stakeholders, promulgate the necessary
28 rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

29 **SEC. 10.***Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared
30 unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or portions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
31 effect.

32 **SEC. 11.***Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, issuances,
33 rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
34 or modified accordingly.

35 **SEC. 12.***Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in
36 at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the *Official Gazette*.

37 Approved,