Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 189

Authored by: **Congressman BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.**

AN ACT
PROVIDING SOCIAL SECURITY AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS, WORKERS, AND VOLUNTEERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangays as the basic political unit are the bedrock of governance and nation-building and are expected by the people to perform many basic services. It is high time that barangay officials be granted the same benefits of a government employee.

Section 384, Chapter 1, Title 1, Book III of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 states that the barangay, as the basic political unit, "serves as the primary planning and implementing unit of government policies, plans, programs, projects and activities in the community, and as a forum wherein the collective views of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled."

Barangay officials are the government's frontliners and do the legwork in serving the people. Granting them the same benefits as any other government employee is only fair to recognize their vital role in carrying out the government's basic services down to communities.

Most of the national government's efforts require the support and involvement of barangays and so barangay officials should get the same benefits of regular government employees.

Thus, this bill seeks to provide all Punong Barangays, Members of the Sangguniang Barangay, Chairpersons of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurers and qualified members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Tanods, and other barangay volunteer workers social security benefits under the programs of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF).

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

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

SECTION 1. ***Title.*** This Act shall be known as the "Barangay Officials and Workers Benefits Act".

SECTION 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the protection of the rights and welfare of our barangay officials and workers being at the forefront of public service. As such, the State is mandated to provide them remuneration, benefits and other entitlements commensurate to their crucial role in nation-building.

SECTION 3. ***Coverage.*** All Punong Barangays, Members of the Sangguniang Barangay, Chairpersons of the Sangguniang Kabataan, Barangay Secretaries, Barangay Treasurers and qualified members of the Lupong Tagapamayapa, 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 law/s: 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.

SECTION 4. ***Membership 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, workers and its volunteer workers in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

SECTION 5. ***Enrolment in the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).*** The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) shall enroll non-member barangay officials, workers and its volunteer workers into the National Health Insurance Program in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

SECTION 6. ***Membership in the Membership Programs of the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund).*** - The Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) shall enroll non-member barangay officials, workers and volunteers into the applicable Pag-IBIG Fund Membership Program, in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

SECTION 7. ***Education, Training and Skills Development Programs.*** The Local Government Unit and the Civil Service Commission, through different government departments and agencies, shall develop a competency-based education and training curriculum for all barangay workers including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Combat skills and rescue training for barangay tanods with the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Health (DOH);

2. Aside from the training pursuant to RA No. 7883, an additional one (1) month education and technical skills training for Barangay Health Workers (BHW) with the Department of Health; and

3. Clerical and administrative training under the programs of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

***SECTION 7. Implementing* Rules and Regulations.** The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in coordination with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund), in consultation with the Liga ng mga Barangay ng Pilipinas (LnB), shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations with respect to the implementation of the provision of social security benefits of this Act within ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or portions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause*. All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations which may be inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act, are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,