



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5439



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF REGISTERED NURSES FOR EVERY
BARANGAY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a study conducted in 2022, it was cited that many regions in the country, more particularly in rural and conflict areas, remain underserved by health professionals.¹ It was found that “less than twenty-five percent (25%) of cities and municipalities have met the WHO human resource for health density recommendation”² in the Philippines which clearly implies the abject inaccessibility of health services.

This problem is coupled by the migration of healthcare professionals, specifically nurses, most due to socio-economic hardships in the country.³ With this problem, there was a recorded instance of nurses who shifted careers in last year citing low salary and physical exhaustion owing to the pandemic.⁴

To address this issue, this proposed bill ensures that at least every barangay has a ready and able nurse to help in address health concerns and relate information on basic hygiene, sanitation, and overall wellness. This proposed measure also endeavors to utilize the registered nurses in the Philippines to address the growing need for healthcare professionals in other parts of the country.

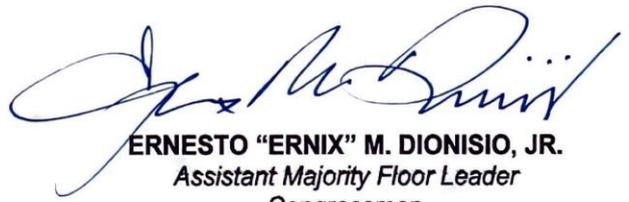
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is sought.

¹ *Outmigration and unequal distribution of Filipino physicians and nurses: An urgent call for investment in health human resource and systemic reform.* Robredo, et al. (2022). [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065\(22\)00127-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065(22)00127-4/fulltext).

² Ibid.

³ *When the “heroes” don’t feel cared for”: The migration and resignation of Philippine nurses amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.* Alibudbud, R. (2022). <https://jogh.org/2022/jogh-12-03011>.

⁴ <https://news.outsourceaccelerator.com/majority-of-filipino-nurses-switch-to-bpo-jobs/>



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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 “Nurse in Every Barangay Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote and protect the right to health of all Filipinos and provide conditions for health empowerment where each individual has access to information and services that will bring about health and well-being. Towards this end, it is further declared to be the policy of the State to develop and preserve a reservoir of national talents, particularly in the medical field, to ensure that accessible and quality health services are extended to each individual.

SECTION. 3. Program of the Employment of Nurses in Every Barangay. – There is hereby established a program for the employment of nurses in each barangay, for the purpose of ensuring the delivery of health services, and provide information relating to hygiene, sanitation, and other health and safety measures to the poorest communities in rural areas as well as underprivileged communities in the urban areas, while providing gainful employment to registered nurses and utilizing their professional competencies.

SECTION 4. Role of Local Government Units. – Each local government unit is mandated to employ one (1) registered nurse in every barangay within their jurisdiction.

The local government unit shall determine whether the need for additional registered nurses is necessary, based on the proportion of the population of a barangay.

SECTION 5. Recruitment, Selection, and Training. – The local government units shall secure the assistance of the Department of Health in recruiting, selecting, and in training the registered nurses employed by local government units to ensure their capability in addressing public health and wellness concerns of the barangays.

For this purpose, the Department of Health is hereby mandated to issue guidelines setting the qualifications of nurses to be deployed to the barangays as well as come up with a module for the relevant training of these nurses. The guidelines to be set shall in no case discriminate against the hiring of fresh graduates or newly passed registered nurses.

SECTION 6. Minimum Qualification of Nurses. – Nurses engaged under the program shall have the following minimum qualifications:

- a) Must have a valid RN license issued by the Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC);
- b) Must be willing to relocate to its assigned area, even temporarily; and
- c) Must have passion for public health concerns.

SECTION 7. Certification. – Nurses under this program are required to provide an annual health status report regarding the average health and wellness of the barangay and must provide suggestions to the local government units to improve the health and wellness of the citizens of the barangay.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to implement the program under this Act shall be initially appropriated out of the funds of the respective local government unit. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the full implementation of this program shall be included in the respective budget of the local government units in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and the DOH shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, as may be necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. – If any provision or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,