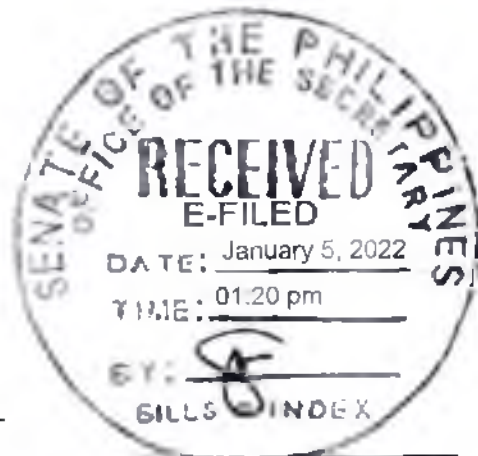


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



SENATE

S. No. 2471

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
INCREASING COMPENSATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9433, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL WORKERS"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9433, otherwise known as the Magna Carta for Public Social Workers defines social work as *"the profession which helps individuals, families, groups, and communities develop, improve, maintain or restore their capability for coping with the demands of their environment, through the use of social work methods and interventions."*

Social work in our government entails a wide range of services under various programs that aim to uplift the wellbeing of the less fortunate and vulnerable segment of the population, such as distributing relief to the poor and calamity-stricken families and communities, providing guidance and support to children, women and families who are victims of oppression, abuse and neglect, teaching children in day care centers, promoting GAD in local government, assisting in formulating plans to build disaster resilience, guiding out-of-school youth, overseas Filipino workers, and veterans, among others. As such, it is being performed not only by social workers within the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), but also in various government agencies.

Also in the frontlines of government service, the nature of the work of a social workers is mostly ground or field work, exposing them to a number of hazards and risks. Given this crucial and vital role of these social workers in our society, especially in the time of the current pandemic, it is only fitting that we give them just recognition and appreciation through an increase in their compensation, which has always been lower to that of their counterparts in the private sector.

Given the aforementioned, this bill proposes to amend RA 9433 by adjusting the salary grades of public social workers, and to be consistent with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the said law, amend the definition of *public social worker* to include not only those performing social work functions under the position title "social welfare officer" but to all positions in the government that require registered/licensed social workers, and expand the coverage of the said law by also including those whose services are engaged through job orders or contracts of service.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 3 (c) of Republic Act No. 9433, otherwise known as the
2 "Magna Carta for Public Social Workers", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 "SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act, the following terms
5 shall mean as follows:

6
7 " xxx.

8 (c) 'Public Social Worker' — refers to [registered social worker
9 employed in the government service] **CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT**
10 **PERSONNEL WHOSE POSITION REQUIRES AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S**
11 **DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK, WITH VALID PRC LICENSES, WHETHER OR**
12 **NOT THE POSITION TITLE CARRIES THE WORD "SOCIAL WELFARE**
13 **OFFICER";**

14
15 xxx."

16

1 **Section 2.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9433, otherwise known as the "Magna
2 Carta for Public Social Workers", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 4. *Coverage.* — This Act shall cover all registered social workers
4 employed in government service, **INCLUDING THOSE WHOSE**
5 **SERVICES ARE ENGAGED THROUGH JOB ORDERS OR CONTRACTS**
6 **OF SERVICE."**
7

8 **Section 3.** Section 12 of Republic Act No. 9433, otherwise known as the
9 "Magna Carta for Public Social Workers", is hereby amended to read as follows:

10
11 "SEC. 12. *Compensation.* — [The existing law] **APPLICABLE LAWS,**
12 **RULES AND REGULATIONS** on the salary scales of government
13 employees shall apply in determining the salaries of public social
14 workers. **PROVIDED, THAT THE SALARY GRADE OF ENTRY-LEVEL**
15 **JUNIOR OFFICER PUBLIC SOCIAL WORKERS SHALL BE AT LEAST**
16 **SALARY GRADE 13; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NOTHING IN THIS**
17 **ACT SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO ELIMINATE OR IN ANY WAY DIMINISH**
18 **BENEFITS BEING ENJOYED BY PUBLIC SOCIAL WORKERS AT THE**
19 **TIME OF THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT; PROVIDED, FUTHER, THAT**
20 **[I]in case of violations of this provision, the public social worker**
21 **concerned shall file the necessary complaint to the CSC or NLRC**
22 **through the Social Work Management and Consultative Council;**
23 **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS WHICH DO**
24 **NOT HAVE ADEQUATE OR SUFFICIENT FUNDS SHALL ONLY**
25 **PARTIALLY IMPLEMENT THE ESTABLISHED RATE AS MAY BE**
26 **APPROVED BY THE SOCIAL WORK MANAGEMENT AND**
27 **CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL."**
28

29 **Section 4.** Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the
30 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with the Social Work
31 Management and Consultative Council, shall modify the Index of Occupational
32 Services, Occupational Groups, Classes and Salary Grades to adjust the salary grades
33 of public social workers.
34

35 **Section 5.** All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations,
36 rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions
37 of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
38
39

1 **Section 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in
2 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3
4 *Approved,*