

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
S.B. No. 1494

RECEIVED BY.

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

**AN ACT
GRANTING INCENTIVES AND OTHER BENEFITS TO RURAL HEALTH UNIT
DOCTORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to health services should be unimpaired as guaranteed by our Constitution in the Declaration of State Policies. Rural health unit doctors are in the frontline of delivering basic health services to our countrymen. However, these doctors, who prides themselves with same or even better credentials as their private counterparts, receive far lower salaries.

In our nation's quest to provide universal access to health services, it is imperative that we improve the conditions of the people who deliver these services. In this light, this proposed measure seeks to grant additional incentives and other benefits to rural health unit doctors.

More than the monetary value that we attribute to our rural health unit doctors, we are conferring them the due respect and recognition for their dedication and unselfish service in delivering vital health care needs of our countrymen.

In this regard, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
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DOCTORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Rural Health Unit Doctors
2 Incentives and other Benefits Act."

3

4 Sec. 2. *Statement of Policy.* - The State shall protect and promote the right to
5 health of people and instill health consciousness among them by giving each individual
6 unimpaired access to health and information services. Towards this end, this Act shall
7 provide incentives and benefits to rural health unit doctors, the front-liners in the
8 promotion, protection and maintenance of health in the rural areas.

9

10 Sec. 3. *Definition of Term.* - The term "*rural health doctor*" refers to a licensed
11 doctor of medicine employed by the local government who is assigned to actively or
12 regularly perform his/her official duties in a rural area or remote community.

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14 Sec. 4. *Incentives and Benefits.* - In recognition of their services, rural unit
15 health doctors shall, in addition to their incentives and benefits granted under existing
16 laws, be entitled to the following:

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(a) hazard allowance in an amount to be determined by the local health board of the local government unit concerned;

(b) subsistence allowance equivalent to the meals they take in the course of their duty which shall be computed in accordance with prevailing circumstances as determined by the local government unit concerned; and

(c) scholarships in the form of tuition fees and stipends.

Sec. 5. Separability Clause. – If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.