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**SENATE**

S. No. __1732__

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rural health unit doctors play an indispensable role in preserving and enhancing the health of rural inhabitants. These workers offer their service to far-flung areas, which, like any other areas, deeply in need of essential health services.

Geographically speaking, the distribution of healthcare professionals including nurses, doctors, and midwives in the country is unequal.[1] Some works are concentrated to a few rural health unit doctors since most of them are more likely to work in cities and municipalities that have greater access to amenities like hospitals and clinics. [2]

Given the dedication of the rural health unit doctors, it is imperative that proper incentives and benefits should be granted to them.

Thus, this bill seeks to provide incentives to rural health unit doctors like hazard allowance, subsistence allowance, and scholarships in the form of tuition fees and stipends. These will be a simple help for them and recognition for their efforts and hard work in delivering services to distant areas.

Therefore, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

**MARK A. VILLAR**

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[1] Maldistribution of healthcare workers. (n.d.). PIDS - Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Retrieved December 19, 2022, from https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/maldistribution-of-healthcare-workers
[2] Id.

**SENATE**

S. No. 1732

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

## AN ACT
## GRANTING INCENTIVES AND OTHER BENEFITS TO RURAL HEALTH UNIT WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1  Sec. 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and promote the right to

2  health of people and instill health consciousness among them by giving each individual

3  unimpaired access to health and information services. Towards this end, this Act shall

4  provide incentives and benefits to rural health unit doctors, the front-liners in the

5  promotion, protection and maintenance of health in the rural areas.

6  Sec. 2. *Rural health workers.* – "*Rural health workers*" refers to all persons who

7  are engaged in health and health-related work, and all persons employed in rural

8  health units operated by Government or its political subdivisions with original charters

9  and shall include medical, allied health professional, administrative and support

10  personnel employed regardless of their employment status.

11  Sec. 3. *Incentives and Benefits.* – In recognition of their services, rural unit

12  health workers shall, in addition to their incentives and benefits granted under existing

13  laws, be entitled to the following:

14  a.) hazard allowance in an amount to be determined by the local health board

15  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. 4. *Separability Clause.* — If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*