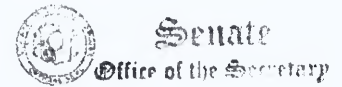


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**



'22 JUL 14 P1:53

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 602

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT
ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERISM DURING EMERGENCIES BY PROTECTING
VOLUNTEERS FROM LIABILITY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino people have a characteristically strong sense of community. We are a nation that prides ourselves on our practice of *bayanihan*, where the individual readily lends oneself to the needs of the community. In an archipelagic country that has been historically vulnerable to strife and disaster, it is crucially hopeful that every tragedy is offset by narratives of selflessness – of civilians braving storm surges to rescue their neighbors, of volunteers going into war-torn areas to provide much-needed aid.

In the contemporary world, where time has become every individual's most precious capital, this sense of selfless service has found an avenue in volunteerism. It comes as no surprise that the Philippine has a notable record of volunteer workers. This has been particularly prevalent when the country was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, wherein hundreds of volunteers nationwide have mobilized to lend their time, services and expertise to help those who have been affected by the pandemic.

This bill seeks to further encourage volunteerism in the country by providing our volunteers with due legal protection as they render their services for government entities, non-profit organizations, or the Philippine Red Cross. With this bill, volunteers, so long as they are acting in an emergency situation, are properly licensed, certified or authorized, and are acting within the scope of responsibilities assigned to them, will not have to fear facing misplaced legal action.

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

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI



'22 JUL 14 P1:53

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

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 602

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**AN ACT
ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERISM DURING EMERGENCIES BY PROTECTING
VOLUNTEERS FROM LIABILITY**

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Emergency
2 Volunteer Protection Act of 2022.”

3
4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It shall be the policy of the State to
5 provide a conducive and enabling legal environment for volunteers by placing
6 mechanisms that will protect their rights and award them with privileges for their
7 contribution to society

8
9 **SEC. 3 Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

10
11 a) “Volunteer” refers to an individual or group who provides reasonable
12 assistance and contributes time, service and resources in an emergency
13 situation and who does not receive compensation other than reasonable
14 reimbursement or allowance for expenses actually incurred for rendering
15 volunteer service.

16
17 The volunteers shall be duly licensed, certified or authorized by appropriate
18 government entities or nongovernment organizations, or accredited by and
19 registered with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating
20 Agency (PNVSCA) prior to deployment;

- 1 b) "Emergency" requiring immediate attention and remedial action involving
2 unforeseen occurrence sudden, and impending threat or dangers to life,
3 health or safety of a person;
- 4 c) "Volunteer sectors" refer to those sectors that organize themselves into
5 volunteers to take advocacy and action primarily for local and national
6 development as well as international cooperation and understanding; and
- 7 d) "Spontaneous volunteer" refers to an individual who may either be trained
8 volunteers from accredited training institutions, or an untrained person who
9 performs voluntary work as necessitated by an emergency situation.

10
11 **SEC. 4 *Liability Protection for Volunteers*** – No volunteer shall be liable for
12 harm caused by an act or omission done in performance of his or her duties or
13 functions as volunteers if:

- 14
15 a. The volunteer was acting in an emergency situation;
- 16 b. The volunteer was properly licensed, certified or authorized by the appropriate
17 government authorities, either government entities or non-government
18 organizations, or accredited by and registered with the PNVSCA prior to
19 deployment;
- 20 c. The volunteer acted within the scope of his/her responsibilities in the
21 government entity, non-profit organization, or the PNVSCA;
- 22 d. The volunteer acted under orders or direction of appropriate government
23 authority;
- 24 e. The volunteer acted in an emergency situation, where there are no government
25 authority or trained volunteers present, in order to assist or care for persons
26 who are:
- 27 i. In serious or imminent danger, or apparently in serious and
28 imminent danger, of being injured or further injured;
- 29 ii. Injured or apparently injured; or
- 30 iii. Suffering, or apparently suffering, from an illness.

31
32 **SEC. 5. *Exceptions***. – The liability protection for volunteers under this Act
33 shall not apply to the following:

- 34
35 a. Where the act constitutes a crime:
- 36 b. Where the volunteer caused damage or harm by willful or criminal
37 misconduct, gross negligence, reckless misconduct, or a conscious,

1 flagrant indifference to the rights or safety of the individual harmed by
2 the volunteer; or

3 c. Where the acts were performed under the influence of intoxicating
4 alcohol or any dangerous drug at the time of the misconduct.

5
6 **SEC. 6. *Mandatory Insurance.*** – The PNVSCA shall provide an additional
7 insurance coverage to all volunteers as defined in this Act which shall give the
8 following minimum benefits:

9 a.) Disability Benefits of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P350,000.00) for
10 volunteers who shall suffer total or partial disability, whether permanent or
11 temporary, as a result of an injury sustained during performance of duty;

12 b.) Death benefits amounting to Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00)
13 for volunteers who shall perish in the line of duty; and

14 c.) Reimbursement of actual medical costs up to Two Hundred Thousand Pesos
15 (P200,000.00) for volunteers who shall be hospitalized or who shall require
16 medical attendance for injuries sustained while in the performance of duty.

17
18 **SEC. 7. *Trainings.*** - The PNVSCA shall conduct mandatory trainings of all
19 their registered and potential volunteers.

20
21 **SEC. 8. *Accreditation of Volunteers.*** – Unless properly licensed, certified or
22 authorized by the appropriate government authorities, other government entities or
23 non-government organizations, volunteers must be accredited by and registered with
24 the PNVSCA prior to deployment to be exempted from liability.

25
26 **SEC. 9. *Nationwide Public Information Campaign.*** – The PNVSCA, in
27 consultation with relevant government entities and non-profit organizations, shall
28 promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act within ninety
29 (90) days from its effectivity.

30
31 **SEC. 10. *The Secretariat*** - The EMSS Council shall organize a Secretariat
32 headed by a person of probity and shall have at least five (5) years experience in
33 emergency medical services or a related field.

34
35 **SEC. 11. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
36 unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
37 effect.

1 **SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, degrees, orders, rules and regulations
2 or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
3 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

4
5 **SEC. 20. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

7
8 Approved,