

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4751

Introduced by **HON. CATALINA CABRERA – BAGASINA**
Association of Laborers and Employees (ALE) Party-list

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a home for the elderly in every province, facilities that would cater to homeless elderly persons, to be operated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. This will provide comfortable living quarters, protection, clothing, medical attention, adequate food, recreation, and relaxation. The Constitution provides that "The Family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security". The success of the country today is due to our elders and the success of our country's future is dependent to the actions of the youth of today.

The government intends to jumpstart its project to provide home care for the elderly. To date, there are approximately ten (10) of these home care in the country which houses recreational facilities and wellness program specifically for the elderly or senior citizens but the cost is substantial.

The provincial home for the elderly will be focused on satisfying the expectations of the elderly. It will be a habitat for the elderly to live life, fully alive and not just a facility for the frail and the helpless.

It also seeks to guarantee residential care facility which takes care of the neglected, abandoned and homeless elderly members of society. Every abandoned and homeless elderly deserves to be afforded the opportunity to live the most normal life possible, and each center will offer them the opportunity of living a decent life where their most basic necessities are met.

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


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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN EVERY PROVINCE AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Homeless Elderly Center of 2011".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to: (1) value the dignity of every human person, (2) guarantee full respect for human rights, (3) extend assistance to its elderly members through just programs of social security, and (4) protect and promote the right to health and safety of the elderly.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. "Elder" refers to an individual age 60 or older
- b. "DSWD" shall refer to the Department of Social Welfare and Development
- c. "Philhealth" shall refer to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation

SECTION 4. Center for the Elderly. There shall be provincial centers established for the Elderly, one (1) in every province to be operated and maintained by the DSWD.

SECTION 5. Center's Responsibilities. Each Center for the Elderly shall provide a number of abandoned and homeless elderly with comfortable living quarters, adequate food, clothing, occupational and recreational activities, rehabilitation, medical consultation and treatment, and opportunities for social interaction and relaxation.

SECTION 6. Sources of Funds and Method of Collection. The funds to be used for the establishment, maintenance and miscellaneous expenses for operation of these centers shall be sourced out from the following agencies, but not limited to:

- a) Not less than one percent (0.5 %) of the annual revenue collected by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation;

- b) Any other appropriations from the General Appropriations Act;
- c) Donations and grants from domestic and international sources duly accepted and approved by the DSWD which do not constitute a breach of any Philippines laws and recognized international treaties; and
- d) Seventeen Million Pesos (Php 70,000,000.00) a year from Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation's (PAGCOR) net profit.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* As the lead agency, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act not later than 120 days after its passage into law.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 9. *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 10. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.