

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5411



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Introduced by: **HONORABLE JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill is a counterpart of Senate Bill No. 2982 entitled "An Act Establishing the Philippine Institute for Aging, Defining its Objectives, Powers and Functions, and for Other Purposes" of the good Senator Edgardo J. Angara.

An aging population has become a common trend in many countries and Philippines has not been spared from this phenomenon. While its population is relatively young – the average age of Filipinos is 26.6 years (2011) as compared to its neighboring Asian countries like Japan (44.8) and Korea (33 by year 2000), the proportion of old/elderly has steadily been increasing over time from 5.3 percent in 1980 to 6.0 percent in 2000 to 6.9 percent in 2011. If current trends continue, the average age of a Filipino will rise to 33.3 years by 2040. By then, our elderly would have more than doubled to 19.6 million or 13.8% of the population.

The aging population has a huge impact on us as well as our society. Family structures are changing, leaving older people fewer options for care. The government faces a growing financial burden from pension costs, medical care, and possibly long-term care, implying a sharp increase in taxes or the reduction of benefits enjoyed.

At the same time, society will also have to consider the lifestyle of the future's elderly. Adults today tend to remain active through their advanced years. This will have enormous implications on our infrastructure, particularly our health facilities and transportation systems. The elderly will also soon be a major market. Consumer and recreational products would have to be tailor-fitted to their needs and wants.

One factor that triggers this phenomenon is primarily due to scientific advances. Advancement in healthcare, medicine and nutrition are enabling people to live longer. Most people only lived to 47 years at the turn the century. Today, Filipino men can expect to live up to 67 years old while women live up to 72.5 years on the average. The NSCB adds that from 2010-2015, life expectancy at birth will be increased by 3.6 months every year.

Groundbreaking research in neuroscience, gene therapy and stem cell technology are prolonging life spans even more. An emerging field of research called "smart aging" will help make longer years productive ones too.

The challenges may seem daunting, but a host of opportunities await us as well. There are exciting opportunities for economic expansion and cross-national collaboration as well, but we must act now or the costs of waiting— financial and social—will be overwhelming.

This measure seeks to establish the Philippine Institute for Aging, our very own science and research-oriented think-tank that will study aging and the aged as an integrated, multi-disciplinary field responsive to the present and prospective needs of our own population.

Furthermore, the Philippine Institute for Aging will lead in changing our attitudes toward this phenomenon. Aging should no longer be seen as an impediment to living one's life to the fullest. Indeed, living should not stop when we get older. It should only become even more enriching and fulfilling. It is the institute's goal to help all Filipinos attain longer and better years.

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



**JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA**

Representative

Lone District of Aurora

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILLIPPINE INSTITUTE FOR AGING, DEFINING ITS  
OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution, states that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

WHEREAS, Article XIII, Section 2 provides that "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children."

WHEREAS, Article XV, Section 4 provides that while the family has the duty to care for its elderly members, the State may also do so through just programs of social security.

**Section 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the " Philippine Institute for Aging Act of 2011."

**Section 2. Policies and Objectives.** – Consonant with the above-mentioned Constitutional mandate, this Act is aimed to:

- a) Motivate and encourage the senior citizens to contribute to nation building;
- b) Encourage their families and communities they live with to reaffirm the valued Filipino tradition of caring for the senior citizens.

**Section 3. The Philippine Institute for Aging.** – To carry out these objectives, a research institute to be known as the Philippine Institute for Aging (“PIA”) is hereby created under the University of the Philippines – Manila, and attached to the National Institute of Health (hereinafter “NIH”).

**Section 4. Functions of the Philippine Institute for Aging.** – The functions of the PIA are:

- a) Formulate policy directions and strategies to meet the objectives of this Act;
- b) Promote and conduct science and technology research and development in aging;
- c) Find innovative and interdisciplinary solutions to the issues and challenges posed against the elderly population;
- d) Use and translate technology to advance the health and quality of life of the elderly, and enable them to lead richer lives;
- e) Foster collaborations with similar academic and research institutions, domestic and abroad;
- f) Establish local and foreign linkages;
- g) Establish mechanisms to disseminate and utilize research outputs;
- h) Receive and manage grants, aid, donations or any kind of assistance for achieving its objectives, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the University of the Philippines (hereinafter “UP”);
- i) Allocate, source and award research grants and training to outstanding individuals in the field of aging, neuroscience, geriatric research, and related fields;
- j) Complement graduate programs and faculty research human resource training in UP Manila;
- k) Organize, develop and conduct information campaigns, education and training programs to the public and other stakeholders to advance the goals of this Act;
- l) Appoint, hire and maintain adequate personnel and/or consultants with suitable qualifications as necessary;
- m) Propose and allocate the PIA’s annual budgetary resources;
- n) Apprise, advise and coordinate with other government agencies, including government owned and controlled corporations and local governments, on any matter relating to the objectives of this Act; and
- o) Perform all other acts as may be necessary to achieve its objectives and functions, in accordance with the rules and regulations of UP.

**Section 5. Public-Private Partnerships.** – To enable the PIA to perform its functions, the institute shall be empowered to enter into agreements with the public and private sector that:

- 1) Create collaborations to develop technologies, business solutions and infrastructures that allow the elderly to live richer, fuller lives;
- 2) Leverage public and private sector support for early stage research and development of technologies and
- 3) Encourage private sector investment in late-stage technology development and product introduction in the market.

*Provided, however,* that any agreement shall be subject to the review and approval of the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines.

**Section 6. Board of Directors and Executive Director.** – The powers of the PIA shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors, hereinafter referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of the following members:

- a) The Chairperson shall be the Secretary of Department of Health (DOH);
- b) A Vice-chairperson who shall come from the members of the Board;
- c) Members consisting of:
  - (1) The Executive Director of PIA in an *ex-officio* capacity;
  - (2) The Executive Director of the National Institutes of Health in an *ex-officio* capacity;
  - (3) Three recognized scholars or specialists in the field of neuroscience, gerontology and aging to be appointed by the Board of Regents of the University of the Philippines as recommended by the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines – Manila.

**Section 7. Appointment of Faculty and Staff** – The board shall organize a corps of scientists and researchers and a secretariat of the PIA, to be headed by the executive director. It shall fix scientists' honorarium and the secretariat's staffing pattern, determine the duties, qualifications, responsibilities and functions, as well as the compensation scheme for the positions to be created upon the recommendation of the executive director. This shall be performed in accordance with the existing rules and regulations of UP and shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Regents.

**Section 8. Functions and Qualifications of the Executive Director.** – The Executive Director shall be a recognized scholar in health research and development. He shall be appointed and shall serve in accordance with the existing rules and regulations of UP.

The Executive Director shall be the chief executive of the Institute and shall exercise direct control and supervision over the internal operations, personnel and representatives of the PIA. S/he is also authorized to represent the PIA in all transactions.

The Executive Director of the PIA shall also sit in an *ex-officio* capacity as member of the Board of Advisers of the NIH.

**Section 9 Technical Competence.** – To effectively undertake its functions, the PIA shall enhance its professional and technical competence through continuing education and rigorous training programs through modern laboratory facilities and state of the art technologies. As well as collaborative and exchange works and projects with similar institutions abroad.

**Section 10. Public access.** – The public and other health institutions shall have access to the research findings, laboratory and research facilities and other resources of the research institutes in UP Manila, as provided in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

The PIA shall submit an annual report to the NIH and to such other agencies as may be required by law before the end of April of each year. The annual report shall contain but not be limited to the following: research conducted or being conducted, exchange or collaborative projects entered into, studies published, forums, symposia and conferences held and attended; grants obtained, incentives granted, revenue generated, cost saved, and such matters relevant to the performance of its functions.

The PIA shall make copies of such reports available to any interested party upon payment of a charge that reflects its printing costs.

**Section 11. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for the continued operation of the PIA shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Section 12. Implementing rules and regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board of Regents of JIP, in coordination with the DOH, shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act.

**Section 13. Repealing clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 14. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**Section 15. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED,