

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6881

Introduced by *Senior Citizens Partylist Representative*
HON. GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Statistical data for 2010 indicate that approximately 6.2 million or 6.8% of the Philippine population are senior citizens, which is projected to grow to 8.5% by 2020. Like in many developing countries, many Filipino senior citizens or elderly remain highly susceptible to poverty. On the other hand, a fast aging population is a serious developmental as well as demographical problem.

Adults tend to become inactive and frail and more exposed to various illnesses in their advanced years. It is a more pronounced concern in the case of abandoned or neglected senior citizens who are left alone with no viable means to sustain themselves.

The situation entails pressures on our health facilities and service delivery systems to serve and protect the welfare of such a highly vulnerable sector of our society.

Fortunately, advancements in medicine and healthcare delivery systems are enabling people to live longer and pass the age of 60. Pioneering works in the emerging field of 'smart aging' are also making the advance years of older people more productive, convenient and liveable.

This bill seeks to establish the Philippine Institute for Aging as the country's research institution that will study and focus on the concerns of aging and the elderly and address the same towards enhancing their contribution to national development. It is also envisioned to lead the crusade in retooling our people's attitude with respect to the plight of the elderly and the better prospects of a prolonged life.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly urged.


HON. GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE FOR AGING,
DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Title*** - This Act shall be known as the 'Philippine Institute for
2 Aging' Act.

3
4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policies and Objectives*** - It is the policy of the
5 State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instil health
6 consciousness among them through the adoption of an integrated and
7 comprehensive approach to health development which shall aim to make
8 essential goods, health and social services available to all the people at
9 affordable cost, particularly to the underprivileged, sick and disabled elderly.

10
11 Pursuant thereto, this Act aims to motivate the senior citizens to actively
12 participate in nation-building, and to encourage their families and the
13 communities they live in to reaffirm the Filipino value of caring for the elderly.

1 **SECTION 3. *Establishment of the Philippine Institute for Aging*** - To carry
2 out the policies and objectives of this Act, there is hereby established a Philippine
3 Institute for Aging, hereinafter referred to as the Institute, created under the
4 Department of Health.

5
6 **SECTION 4. *Functions of the Institute*** – The Philippine Institute for Aging
7 shall have the following functions :

- 8
- 9 a) Formulate and implement policies and programs designed to achieve the
10 objectives of this Act;
 - 11 b) Promote and conduct studies and researches on aging with the end of
12 finding solutions to the issues and challenges confronting the elderly
13 populations;
 - 14 c) Establish collaborations and linkages with similar and allied academic and
15 research institutions, both local and international;
 - 16 d) Receive and manage grants, aids, donations and other kinds of
17 assistance for the purpose of achieving its objectives in accordance with
18 existing laws and regulations;
 - 19 e) Organize and conduct information campaigns, education and training
20 programs for the public and other stakeholders in advancement of the
21 objectives of this Act; and,
 - 22 f) Perform all other acts as may be necessary to achieve the Institute's
23 objectives in accordance with existing laws and regulations.
- 24

25 **SECTION 5. *Board of Directors; Powers and Composition*** – The powers of
26 the Institute shall be vested in and exercised by a Board of Directors, hereinafter
27 referred to as the Board, which shall be composed of :

- 28
- 29 a) The Chairperson who shall be the Secretary of the Department of Health;

1 b) An Executive Director; and,

2 c) Three (3) recognized scholars or specialists in the field of gerontology and
3 aging who shall be recommended by their respective professional
4 associations and appointed by the President of the Republic of the
5 Philippines.

6
7 The Board shall organize a corps of scientists and researchers and a Secretariat
8 to be headed by the Executive Director. It shall fix the Institute's staffing pattern,
9 determine their qualifications, duties and responsibilities, as well as a scheme of
10 compensation and honoraria in accordance with existing laws.

11
12 Except for the Chairman, the members of the Board shall serve for a term of
13 three (3) years from the date of their appointment and shall be eligible for one (1)
14 reappointment.

15
16 **SECTION 6. *The Executive Director; Functions and Qualifications*** - The
17 Executive Director shall be the chief executive of the Institute and shall exercise
18 direct control and supervision over the internal operations and personnel of the
19 Institute. He or she is hereby authorized to represent the Institute in all
20 transactions.

21
22 The Executive Director shall be a recognized scholar in health research and
23 development and shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of the
24 Philippines

25
26 **SECTION 7. *Public-Private Partnerships*** – To enable the Institute to perform
27 its functions and achieve its objectives, it is hereby empowered to enter into
28 agreements with the public and private sectors : Provided that, any agreement

1 entered into by it shall be subject to review and approval by the Secretary of the
2 Department of Health.

3
4 **SECTION 8. *Appropriations*** - The amount necessary to carry out the initial
5 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the General Appropriations
6 Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for the continued operation of the
7 Institute shall be included in the budgetary allocation of the Department of
8 Health in the General Appropriations Act.

9
10 **SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** - Within sixty (60) days
11 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Health shall
12 formulate and promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective
13 implementation of this Act.

14
15 **SECTION 10. *Separability Clause*** - If any portion or provision of this Act is
16 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions hereof not affected
17 thereby shall remain valid and effective.

18
19 **SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive
20 orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
21 this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

22
23 **SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause*** - The Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
24 after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2)
25 newspapers of general circulation.

26
27
28 **Approved.**