

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 615



Introduced by HONORABLE MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 mandates the establishment of an Office for Senior Citizens Affairs ("**OSCA**") in all cities and municipalities. This measure is aimed at providing an accessible avenue for identifying, recognizing and addressing the issues plaguing the elderly community.

The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 further directs that the OSCA be headed by a senior citizen who will enjoy a term of three (3) years and will be entitled to an honorarium, subject to the approval of the local government unit concerned. The OSCA head is to be chosen from a list of three (3) nominees as recommended by a general assembly of senior citizens organizations in the city or municipality.

As is inevitable in positions imbued with responsibility and the power to highlight social concerns (thus commanding government attention and action), the position of OSCA Head is a coveted one.

Keeping in mind the welfare of the senior citizens within the local communities and the ensuring that they be well-represented, the law must define basic eligibility requirements for the position of OSCA Head. This bill proposes such eligibility requirements.

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


MAR-LEN ABIGAIL S. BINAY

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE HEAD
OF THE OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS, FURTHER
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7342, AS LAST AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS
ACT OF 2010.

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

SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 7342, as last amended by Section 6 of Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 6. Section 6 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

SEC. 6. *The Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA).* - There shall be established in all cities and municipalities an OSCA to be headed by a senior citizen who shall be appointed by the mayor for a term of three (3) years without reappointment but without prejudice to an extension if exigency so requires. Said appointee shall be chosen from a list of three (3) nominees as recommended by a general assembly of senior citizens organizations in the city or municipality.

NO PERSON SHALL BE NOMINATED TO THE POSITION OF OSCA HEAD UNLESS HE IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, ABLE TO READ AND WRITE, AND A BONA FIDE MEMBER OF A DULY ACCREDITED SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP FOR AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS ON THE DAY OF HIS NOMINATION.

The head of the OSCA shall be appointed to serve the interest of senior citizens and shall not be removed or replaced except for reasons of death, permanent disability or ineffective performance of his duties to the detriment of fellow senior citizens.

The head of the OSCA shall be entitled to receive an honorarium of an amount at least equivalent to Salary Grade 10 to be approved by the LGU concerned.

The head of the OSCA shall be assisted by the City Social Welfare and Development officer or by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer, in coordination with the Social Welfare and Development Office.

The Office of the Mayor shall exercise supervision over the OSCA relative to their plans, activities and programs for senior citizens. The OSCA shall work together and establish linkages with accredited NGOs Pos and the barangays in their respective areas.

The OSCA shall have the following functions:

- (a) To plan, implement and monitor yearly work programs in pursuance of the objectives of this Act;
- (b) To draw up a list of available and required services which can be provided by the senior citizens;
- (c) To maintain and regularly update on a quarterly basis the list of senior citizens and to issue national individual identification cards, free of charge, which shall be valid anywhere in the country;
- (d) To serve as a general information and liason center for senior citizens;
- (e) To monitor compliance of the provisions of this Act particularly the grant of special discounts and privileges to senior citizens;
- (f) To report to the mayor, any individual, establishments, business entity, institutions or agency found violating any provision of this Act; and
- (g) To assist the senior citizens in filing complaints or charges against any individual, establishments, business entity, institution, or agency refusing to comply with the privileges under this Act before the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Provincial Prosecutor's Office, the regional or the municipal trial court, the municipal trial court in cities, or the municipal circuit trial court."

Section 2. *Repealing Clause* – Any law, decree, executive order, administrative order, or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, and amended accordingly.

Section 3. *Separability Clause* – If any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and thereby remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,