

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7018**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior citizens comprise nearly seven percent of the total Filipino population with their number currently estimated at 6.263 million¹. It is predicted that over time, the percentage of the elderly population in relation to the total population of the country might rise to 10%².

The Philippine government recognizes the role of the elderly in nation building and continues to maximize their contribution to development through Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by RA 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act. While this statute grants several benefits and special privileges to senior citizens, more needs to be done to show their importance to us and our appreciation to them. For one, unlike the sectors of the youth, women, and persons with disabilities, the Filipino senior citizens are yet to have their own Commission that will primarily cater to the needs of our lolos and lolas, and craft and implement policies that will further advance the rights and privileges of the sector.

To further empower the Filipino senior citizens, this bill seeks to abolish the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board and create the National Commission for Senior Citizens.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

¹ 2010 Census of Population and Housing

² Evangelista, Rafael. (2015) *Time for senior citizens to fight for our rights*. Rappler. Available at: <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/ispeak/106840-ph-senior-citizens-rights> [28 October 2017]

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT

ABOLISHING THE NATIONAL COORDINATING AND MONITORING BOARD AND CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING THEREFOR REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

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

SECTION 1. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"[SEC.11.Monitoring and Coordinating Mechanism. - A National Coordinating and Monitoring Board shall be established which shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Chairperson-the Secretary of the DSWD or an authorized representative;
- (b) Vice-Chairperson-The secretary of Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) or an authorized representative; and
- (c) Members:
 - (1) The Secretary of DOJ or an authorized representative;
 - (2) The Secretary of DOH or an authorized representative;
 - (3) The Secretary of DTI or an authorized representative; and
 - (4) Representatives from five (5) NGOs for senior citizens when are duly accredited by the DSWD and have service primarily for senior citizens. Representatives of NGOs shall serve a period of three (3) years.

The Board may call on other government agencies, NGOs and POs to serve as resource persons as the need arises. Resource persons have no right to vote in the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board.]

SECTION 11. NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS(NCSC) - TO CARRY OUT THE POLICIES SET FORTH, THERE

SHALL BE CREATED THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WHICH SHALL BE THE PRIMARY GOVERNMENT AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES, PLANS, AND PROGRAMS TO RECOGNIZE, PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHTS OF SENIOR CITIZENS."

SEC.2. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 12. APPOINTMENT. - THE CHAIRPERSON AND COMMISSIONER/S SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM A LIST OF RECOMMENDEES SUBMITTED BY SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS."

SEC.3. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 13. QUALIFICATION, TENURE, COMPENSATION. - THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE SIX (6) COMMISSIONERS MUST BE NATURAL BORN CITIZENS, BONA FIDE MEMBERS OF SENIOR CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS OR ORGANIZATIONS AS CERTIFIED BY THE ASSOCIATIONS OR ORGANIZATION, AT LEAST 60 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF THE APPOINTMENT, PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE NCSC SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS, AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO REAPPOINTMENT FOR ANOTHER TERM: PROVIDED, FURTHERMORE, THAT NO PERSONS SHALL SERVE FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) TERMS. APPOINTMENT TO ANY VACANCY SHALL ONLY BE FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THE PREDECESSOR AND IN NO CASE SHALL A MEMBER BE APPOINTED OR DESIGNATED IN A TEMPORARY OR ACTING CAPACITY: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE CHAIRPERSON AND COMMISSIONERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SALARY STANDARDIZATION LAW."

SEC. 4. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

" SECTION 14. REMOVAL FROM OFFICE. - ANY MEMBER OF THE NCSC MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY THE PRESIDENT, ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE OR UPON RECOMMENDATION BY ANY SENIOR CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS OR ORGANIZATIONS, BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF HIS TERM FOR JUST CAUSE AND AFTER COMPLYING WITH DUE PROCESS REQUIREMENTS OF LAW."

SEC.5. A new Section 15 is hereby added to Republic Act No. 7434, as amended, to read as follows:

" SECTION 15. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS. - THE PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT THE SEVEN (7) COMMISSIONERS OF THE NCSC WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT."

SEC. 6. A new Section 16 is hereby added to Republic Act No. 7434, as amended, to read as follows:

" SECTION 16. POWERS AND FUNCTIONS. - TO ACCOMPLISH ITS MANDATE, THE NCSC SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING POWERS, JURISDICTION AND FUNCTION:

- A) TO SERVE AS THE PRIMARY GOVERNMENT AGENCY THROUGH WHICH SENIOR CITIZENS CAN SEEK GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND AS A MEDIUM THROUGH WHICH SUCH ASSISTANCE MAY BE EXTENDED;**
- B) TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE CONDITIONS OF SENIOR CITIZENS INCLUDING EXISTING LAWS AND POLICIES PERTINENT THERETO AND TO PROPOSE RELEVANT LAWS AND POLICIES TO ADDRESS THEIR ROLE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT;**
- C) TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES, PLANS, PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS AND TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF;**
- D) SUBJECT TO EXISTING LAWS, TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, OR ARRANGEMENT, WITH GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE AGENCIES OR ENTITIES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO ATTAIN OF THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS ACT, AND SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO OBTAIN LOANS FROM GOVERNMENT LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER LENDING INSTITUTIONS TO FINANCE ITS PROGRAMS;**
- E) NEGOTIATE FOR FUNDS AND TO ACCEPT GRANTS, DONATIONS, GIFTS, AND/OR PROPERTIES IN WHATEVER FORM AND FROM WHATEVER SOURCE, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, FOR THE BENEFIT OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND ADMINISTER THE SAME IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS THEREOF; OR IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY CONDITION, IN SUCH MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE INTEREST OF SENIOR CITIZENS AS WELL AS EXISTING LAWS;**

- F) TO COORDINATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND TO OVERSEE THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF;
- G) TO PROMOTE PARTICIPATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN BUSINESS CREATION AND ENTREPRENURIAL DEVELOPMENT SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO MENTORSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND POTENTIAL INVESTMENT;
- H) TO CONVENE PERIODIC CONVENTIONS OR ASSEMBLIES OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO REVIEW, ASSESS AS WELL AS PROPOSE POLICIES OR PLANS;
- I) TO PREPARE YEARLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, CONGRESS, AND THE CONCERNED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS;
- J) TO SUBMIT TO CONGRESS APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS INTENDED TO CARRY OUT THE POLICIES UNDER THIS ACT;
- K) TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE APPROPRIATE BUDGET TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT;
- L) TO PROMULGATE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT;
- M) TO EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE DIRECTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES; AND
- N) TO REPRESENT THE SENIOR CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ALL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS DEALING WITH SENIOR CITIZENS AND OTHER RELATED CONCERNS."

SEC. 7. A new Section 17 is hereby added to Republic Act No. 7434, as amended, to read as follows:

"SECTION 17. REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. – THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN ALL REGIONS A REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WITH SIMILAR MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS AS THE NATIONAL COMMISSION AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, SIMILAR BODIES SHALL BE ESTABLISHED IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS."

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be found unconstitutional by a court of law, such provision shall be severed from the

remainder of this Act, and shall not affect the enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations or part thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,