

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1057



Introduced by Honorable Dahlia A. Loyola

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*"... they who protected the weakness of our infancy, are entitled to our protection in the infirmity of their age; they who by sustenance and education have enabled their offspring to prosper, ought in return to be supported by that offspring, incase they stand in need of assistance."*¹

The rules requiring children to support their parents have existed for thousands of years. In the third A.D., there were statutory mutual obligations of support and maintenance between children and parents in Roman society. In medieval Europe, ethics dictated support of relatives. This ethical standard developed by custom and usage into support laws from parent to child and, ultimately, from child to parent. Later, a law imposing a duty of parental support on children was incorporated in the *Code Napoleon*. In 1601, a relative responsibility statute enacted by English Parliament in 1597, which applied only to parents and children, was extended to additional collateral relatives.²

In the United States, 30 states have filial responsibility laws: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

States with filial responsibility statutes take a variety of approaches to enforcement: some allow some sort of civil court action to obtain financial support (or cost recovery), others specify a criminal penalty for filial non-support, while some states allow both civil and criminal actions.

We Filipinos are well-known for our close family ties. Because of this close family ties, we have the usual inclination to care for our elderly. However, even with this close family ties, there are elderly, sick and incapacitated parents who were abandoned by their children. The sights of abandoned elderly in our streets are now common. Children fail to provide the necessary support to their aging, sick and

¹ Wm. Balckstone, Commentaries on Laws of England p. 442 (1765)

² A Comparative Analysis of Filial Responsibility: Italy and United States by Anna Marie de Giacamo

incapacitated parents. This happens despite our moral and natural obligation to maintain our parents who are in need of support. On the same vein, our Family Code imposes on us the legal obligation to support our elderly. Article 195 of our Family Code provides:

Art. 195. Subject to the provisions of the succeeding articles, **the following are obliged to support each other** to the whole extent set forth in the preceding article:

- (1) *The Spouses;*
- (2) *Legitimate ascendants and descendants;*
- (3) ***Parents and their legitimate children and the legitimate and illegitimate children of the latter;***
- (4) ***Parents and their illegitimate children and the legitimate and illegitimate children of the latter; and***
- (5) *Legitimate brothers and sisters, whether full or half-blood.*

However, despite said provision of the Family Code, many elderly who no longer have any means of supporting themselves are being neglected and abandoned by their children. While government is doing its best in providing support in the form of food and shelter as well as enacting legislations like the Senior Citizens Act, it cannot be over-emphasized that taking care of the elderly members of the society is not only the function of government but rather a shared responsibility of government and the children of said elderly. The care for the aged is neither an exclusively private matter to be left to the family nor an exclusively public concern best left to the government.

This proposed bill therefore seeks to further strengthen filial responsibility and make sit a criminal offense in case of flagrant violation thereof. Abandonment of a parent in need of support shall likewise constitute a criminal act. A parent who is in need of support may file a petition for support before the court and pray for the issuance of a support order against those children who failed or refused to provide the same. The legal representation of the parent in need of support will be provided by the Public Attorney's Office and no court fees will be assessed. This bill also seeks to establish Old Age Home for the elderly, sick or otherwise incapacitated parents in every province and highly urbanized cities.

In light of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


DR. DAHLIA A. LOYOLA
Representative
Fifth District, Cavite

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1057

Introduced by Honorable Dahlia A. Loyola

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PARENT SUPPORT,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** – This Act shall be known as the
2 ***“Parents Welfare Act of 2019”.***

3
4 **SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE.** - Pursuant to
5 Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the family to
6 take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of
7 social security for them. Therefore, the State, together with the children
8 of parents in need of support, must promote the welfare of parents who
9 are aged, sick, incapacitated and not capable of supporting themselves.

10
11 **SEC. 3.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the
12 following definition of terms shall be adopted:

13
14 a) “children” includes son, daughter grandson,
15 granddaughter, whether biological or adoptive, but does not
16 include a minor or those over the age of majority but are unable to
17 fully take care of themselves because of a physical or mental
18 disability or condition.

19 b) “parent in need of support” refers to the father or mother
20 other direct ascendants who is a senior citizen, aged, sickly, or
21 who regardless of age is permanently incapacitated or otherwise
22 not capable of supporting themselves;

23
24 c) “support” includes provisions indispensable for sustenance
25 clothing, residence, medical attendance and treatment, recreation
26 and other amenities necessary for the parent in need of support
27 to lead a normal life and in keeping with the financial capacity of
28 the family.

29
30 **SEC. 4. SUPPORT. -** A parent in need of support who is
31 unable to maintain himself/herself from his/her own earning or out of the
32 property owned by him/her or who is incapacitated or otherwise
33 incapable of supporting himself/herself shall be given support by his/her
34 children.

35
36 If the parent concerned has several children, the support to be
37 given shall be divided among them in proportion to their resources or
38 financial capacity and in such manner as may be just and equitable.

39
40 Grandchildren shall only be liable to support their ascendants if
41 the children of such ascendants cannot fulfill their duty to support due to
42 death, illness or they are unable to fully take care of themselves
43 because of a physical or mental disability or condition.

44
45 **SEC. 5. DEMAND FOR SUPPORT. -** No demand for
46 support is necessary before the obligation to support accrues. However,
47
48 prior request for support which was denied or unacted within an
49 unreasonable period of time is a requirement for the filing of a Petition
50 for Support before a court of competent jurisdiction.

52 **SEC. 6. PAYMENT OF SUPPORT.** - In instances where the
53 parent in need of support is not being maintained by his/her children in
54 their dwelling, or only one of the children of the parent concerned
55 is taking care of him/her in his/her dwelling, the share for the support of
56 such parent by children who has no custody shall be paid within the
57 first five (5) days of every month.

58
59 The court, in its discretion, may order for the payment of a lump
60 sum, or a monthly allowance or periodical payment for such a period as
61 the court may determine taking into consideration the circumstances of
62 the parties. The manner and method of payment of support shall also
63 be under the discretion of the court.

64
65 **SEC. 7. OPTION IN THE FULFILLMENT OF THE**
66 **OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT.** - The children of the parent in need of
67 support shall have the option to fulfill the obligation either by paying the
68 support fixed by the Support Order, or by receiving and maintaining in
69 the family dwelling the parent concerned. The latter alternative cannot
70 availed of in case there is moral or legal obstacle thereto.

71
72 **SEC. 8. SUPPORT ORDER.** - A support order is an order
73 issued under this Act for the purpose of compelling the children to
74 provide the necessary support to their parent,. The order shall include
75 the name of the children required to give support, the amount necessary
76 for the support of their parent and the share of each children.

77
78 It shall be immediately executory and no temporary restraining
79 order or injunction shall be issued by any court, except the Court of
80 Appeals to stay the said order.

81
82 The order may be modified from time to time, upon motion of the
83 applicant, according to the necessities of the recipient and the resources
84 or mans of the children obliged to furnish support.

86 In case of urgent need and by special circumstances, the court
87 may order only one of the children to furnish the support provisionally,
88 without prejudice to his/her right to claim from the other children the
89 share due from them.

90
91 **SEC. 9. PETITION FOR SUPPORT. -** A Petition for
92 Support may be filed in the Regional Trial Court with territorial
93 jurisdiction over the place of residence of the petitioner: Provided,
94 however, that if a family court exists in the place of residence of the
95 petitioner, the application shall be filed with that court.

96
97 The petition may be filed against one or more persons who have
98 the obligation to support the parent concerned. Children against whom
99 a petition for support has been filed may implead other children who are
100 similarly liable to give said support.

101
102 The death of one of the children of the parent in need of support
103 will not affect the liability of others.

104
105 The petition shall be resolved within ninety (90) days from the
106 date of the service of summons to the respondents. The period may be
107 extended once for a maximum period of thirty (30) days in exceptional
108 circumstance and the reason/s to be stated in the Order or decision.

109
110 **SEC. 10. CONTENTS OF THE PETITION. -** The petition
111 must state the following:

- 112
113 (a) the identity of the parent in need of support, his/her
114 residence and age;
115
116 (b) the facts showing that the parent in need of support is a
117 senior citizen, aged, sickly, or who regardless of age is
118 permanently incapacitated or otherwise not capable of
119 supporting himself/herself;

- 120 (c) that the parent in need of support is unable to maintain
121 himself/herself from his/her own earning or out of the
122 property owned by him/her or that he/she is permanently
123 incapacitated or otherwise incapable of supporting himself/
124 herself;
125
126 (d) the names of the children, their degree of relationship with
127 the parent in need of support and their current status; and
128
129 (e) the approximate amount and care needed by the parent in
130 need of support.
131

132 **SEC. 11. WHO MAY FILE PETITION FOR SUPPORT.** - The
133 Petition for Support may be filed by any of the following:
134

- 135 (a) the parent in need of support;
136
137 (b) children of the parent in need of support against those who
138
139 do not provide or contribute for the support of the former;
140
141 (c) ascendants, descendants or collateral relatives within
142 the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity;
143
144 (d) officers or social workers of the Department of Social
145 Welfare and Development (DSWD) or social workers of
146 local government units (LGUs);
147
148 (e) lawyer or healthcare provider of the parent in need of
149 support;
150
151 (f) any person or institution who has the care of the parent in
152 need of support;
153

- (g) At least two (2) concerned responsible citizens of the city or municipality where the parent in need of support resides

SEC. 12. SUPPORT PENDENTE LITE. - The court, during the pendency of the proceeding, shall, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Court, order such children to provide interim support to their parent.

SEC. 13. RIGHT TO LEGAL REPRESENTATION. - The parent in need of support shall be represented by the Public Attorney's Office notwithstanding that the petition was filed by other persons or institutions for and in behalf of such parent.

SEC. 14. PAYMENT OF COURT FEES. - The Petition for Support filed by the parent need of support shall be exempt from all court charges and fees whether they filed the petition for support personally or the same was filed in their behalf.

SEC. 15. CIRCUMSTANCES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE ISSUANCE OF SUPPORT ORDER. - The court, in granting the Petition for Support, shall consider, but shall not be limited to, the following circumstances:

- (a) the financial needs of the parent in need of support, taking into account reasonable expenses for housing and medical costs;
- (b) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial resources of the parent concerned and the manner in which such parent has spent his/her savings or dissipated his/her financial resources;
- (c) the physical or mental disability of the parent concerned;
- (d) the income, earning capacity, property and other financial

resources of the respondent/s;

(e) the expenses incurred by the respondent in supporting his/her own requirements, his/her spouse and that of his/her children; and

(f) the contributions and provisions, whether financial or otherwise, which the respondent has made for the maintenance of his/her parent.

SEC. 16. GROUND FOR NON-ISSUANCE OF SUPPORT

ORDER. - If the court determines after due notice and hearing that the parent in need of support abandoned, abused or neglected, the respondent, it may dismiss the petition or may reduce the quantum of support ordered by such amount as may be just.

The burden of proving abandonment, abuse or neglect shall be on the respondent alleging it.

SEC. 17. POWER OF THE COURT TO VARY OR RESCIND SUPPORT ORDER. - The court may vary or rescind any subsisting Support Order based on any misrepresentation or mistake of fact, or where there has been any material change in the circumstances of the parent in need of support or any of his/her children or where other children are joined as respondent, or for other good cause shown to the satisfaction of the court.

SEC. 18. CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION. - In order to preserve the family unity and peace, the court, before hearing the petition, shall refer the parties to a conciliation officer for mediation.

SEC. 19. EFFECT OF FAILURE TO GIVE SUPPORT. - Where a Support Order has been issued by the court and the children so ordered fail to comply, without sufficient cause or reason, the court may,

for every breach of order issue a warrant for levying the amount sue in the manner provided for levying of fines. Provided, That, if the respondent continues to fail in giving said support for three (3) consecutive months without justifiable cause, the respondent shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of one month to six months or a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 100,000.00) at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 20. ABANDONMENT OF A PARENT IN NEED OF SUPPORT. - Whoever, having the care or protection of a parent in need of support, leaves such parent in any place with the intention of wholly abandoning the latter shall be punished with imprisonment of six (6) years to ten (10) years and a fine of not less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00)

SEC. 21. ESTABLISHMENT OF OLD AGE HOME. - It is hereby mandated that all provincial government and highly urbanized cities shall establish and maintain at least one (1) Old Age Home that can accommodate at least fifty (50) parents.

SEC. 22. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions thereof.

SEC. 23. REPEALING CLAUSE. - All laws, decrees, orders and issuances or portion thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 24. EFFECTIVITY. - This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,