

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

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4608



Introduced by **Representative Cyrille "Beng" F. Abueg-Zaldivar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, a distinct trait that is deeply-rooted in Filipino families is the high regard for older persons. Considering that the family is a basic unit of society, the role being played by the elderly in the development of their families and communities can never be undermined.

This is why the State puts forward the advancement of senior citizens. Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9994, or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," declares that the State should "give full support to the improvement of the well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of Philippine society." Likewise, it provides that the State should "motivate and encourage the senior citizens to contribute in nation building," by instituting "mechanisms whereby the contributions of the senior citizens are maximized."

Further, the Philippines, being a party to the Madrid International Plan of Ageing (MIPAA) in 2002, believes that the involvement of senior citizens in decision-making processes at all levels is critical to national progress.

It is within this framework that this bill seeks to create a Sangguniang Senior Citizens and provide for its powers and functions, so that the senior citizens can fully participate in the decision-making process of the local government units (LGUs). Local policymaking bodies are the most viable venue for active participation of senior citizens. Their effective participation benefits not only senior citizens whose issues and concerns can be addressed, but the local communities themselves who can benefit from the elderly's wisdom and insight culled from years of experience.

The provisions of this measure were essentially patterned from the charter of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) as postulated in Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991. If the youth are organized by the State to form a governing body for themselves and involved in local governance, it is also timely and relevant that the senior citizens should be given the same opportunity. In so doing, the State affirms the full participation of senior citizens in nation building.

With a burgeoning elderly population, it is only fitting to accord them this opportunity and responsibility. It is estimated that the proportion of persons aged 60 years and older in the world will double between 2000 and 2050. In the Philippines, the elderly population has been steadily increasing in both size and proportion. There is a senior citizen in 1 out of every 5 households in the country. To date, the population of senior citizens in the country is estimated at 7.55 million. The number is growing at a faster rate and is expected to increase to 10.5% of the total population or exceed 11.1 million by 2025. More importantly, as long-time taxpayers, the senior citizens have amply contributed to our nation's development.

The generation of today will, sooner or later, join the ranks of the elderly. Today is the time to lay down the necessary policy infrastructure for them and for future generations.

Considering the import of this measure, its immediate passage into law is earnestly sought.


CYRILLE "BENG" F. ABUEG-ZALDIVAR
Representative, 2nd District of Palawan

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by Representative Cyrille “Beng” F. Abueg-Zaldivar

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR REPRESENTATION IN ALL LEVELS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, CREATING THE SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS, THE KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS, PROVIDING THEIR POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Sangguniang Senior Citizens Act of 2019.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to allow the senior citizens and the elderly to be properly represented in government and to continue to perform an active role in nation building.

SEC. 3. Amendment of Section 423 of the Local Government Code. — Section 423 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, hereinafter referred to as the Code, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

1 "CHAPTER VIII

2 Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS

3 SECTION 423. *Creation and Election.* - (a) There shall be in every barangay a
4 sangguniang kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS to be
5 composed of a chairman, [~~seven (7)~~] **four (4) members**, a secretary, and a
6 treasurer.

7
8 (b) A sangguniang kabataan official who, during his term of office, shall
9 have passed the age of twenty-one (21) years shall be allowed to serve the
10 remaining portion of the term for which he was elected."

11
12 **SEC. 4.** *Amendment of Section 424 of the Code.* - Section 424 of the Code is
13 hereby further amended to read as follows:

14
15 "SECTION 424. *Katipunan Kabataan AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR*
16 *CITIZENS.* - The katipunan ang kabataan AND KATIPUNAN NG
17 SENIOR CITIZENS shall be composed of Filipino citizens actually residing
18 in the barangay for at least six (6) months, **IN THE CASE OF THE**
19 **KATIPUNAN NG KABATAAN**, who are fifteen (15) but less than eighteen
20 (18) years of age on the day of the election, **AND IN THE CASE OF**
21 **KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS, WHO ARE AT LEAST SIXTY (60)**
22 **YEARS OF AGE OR MORE**, and are duly registered in the list of the
23 sangguniang kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS or in
24 the official barangay list under the custody of the Barangay Secretary."

25
26 **SEC. 5.** *Amendment of Section 425 of the Code.* - Section 425 of the Code is
27 hereby further amended to read as follows:

1 "SECTION 425. *Meetings of the Katipunan ng Kabataan AND THE*
2 *KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS.* – The katipunan ng kabataan AND
3 *KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS* shall meet at least once every three
4 (3) months, or at the call of the chairman of the sangguniang kabataan AND
5 *SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS* or upon written petition of at least
6 one-twentieth (1/20) of its members, to decide on important issues affecting
7 the youth AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS, RESPECTIVELY, of the
8 barangay."

9
10 SEC. 6. *Amendment of Section 426 of the Code.* – Section 426 of the Code is
11 hereby further amended read as follows:

12
13 "SECTION 426. *Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Kabataan AND*
14 *SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS.* – The sangguniang kabataan AND
15 *SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS* shall:

- 16
17 a) Promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth
18 AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS, RESPECTIVELY, in the barangay in
19 accordance with the applicable provisions of this Code;
20
21 b) Initiate programs designed to enhance the social, political, economic,
22 cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the
23 members;
24
25 c) Hold fund-raising activities, the proceeds of which shall be tax-exempt and
26 shall accrue to the general fund of the sangguniang kabataan AND
27 *SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS: Provided, however,* That in the
28 appropriation thereof, the specific purpose for which such activity has been
29 held shall be first satisfied;

- 1
- 2 d) Create such bodies or committees as it may deem necessary to effectively
- 3 carry out its programs and activities;
- 4
- 5 e) Submit annual and end-of-term reports to the Sangguniang Barangay on
- 6 their projects and activities for the survival and development of the youth
- 7 **AND SENIOR CITIZENS** in the barangay;
- 8
- 9 f) Consult and coordinate with all youth **AND SENIOR CITIZENS**
- 10 organizations in the barangay for policy formulation and program
- 11 implementation;
- 12
- 13 g) Coordinate with the appropriate national agency for the implementation of
- 14 youth **AND SENIOR CITIZENS** development projects and programs at the
- 15 national level; and
- 16
- 17 h) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as
- 18 the Sangguniang Barangay may determine or delegate or as may be
- 19 prescribed by law or ordinance."
- 20

21 **SEC. 7. Amendment of Section 427 of the Code.** – Section 427 of the Code is

22 hereby further amended to read as follows:

23

24 "Section 427. *Meetings of the Sangguniang Kabataan* **AND SANGGUNIANG**

25 **SENIOR CITIZENS.** – The sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG**

26 **SENIOR CITIZENS** shall meet regularly once a month on the date, time,

27 and place to be fixed by said **RESPECTIVE** sanggunian. Special meetings

28 may be called by the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG**

29 **SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman or any [~~three (3)~~] **TWO (2)** of its sanggunian

1 members by giving written notice to all members of the date, time, place and
2 agenda of the meeting at least one (1) day in advance. Notices of regular or
3 special meetings shall be furnished the punong barangay and the
4 sangguniang barangay.

5
6 A majority of the members of the sangguniang kabataan **AND**
7 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall constitute a quorum.”

8
9 **SEC. 8. Amendment of Section 428 of the Code.** – Section 428 of the Code is
10 hereby further amended to read as follows:

11
12 “SECTION 428. *Qualifications.* – An elective official of sangguniang
13 kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** must be a Filipino
14 citizen, a qualified voter of the katipunan ng kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN**
15 **NG SENIOR CITIZENS**, a resident of the barangay for at least one (1) year
16 immediately prior to election, at least fifteen (15) years but less than
17 eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the election **FOR THE**
18 **SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND SIXTY (60) YEARS OF AGE OR**
19 **MORE FOR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**, able to read and write
20 Filipino, English, or the local dialect, and must not have been convicted of
21 any crime involving moral turpitude.”

22
23 **SEC. 9. Amendment of Section 429 of the Code.** – Section 429 of the Code is
24 hereby further amended to read as follows:

25
26 “SECTION 429. *Term of Office.* – The sangguniang kabataan **AND**
27 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman and members shall hold
28 office for a period of three (3) years, unless sooner removed for cause as
29 provided by law, permanently incapacitated, die or resign from office.”

1
2 **SEC. 10. Amendment of Section 430 of the Code.** – Section 430 of the Code is
3 hereby further amended to read as follows:
4

5 “SECTION. 430. *Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR*
6 *CITIZENS CHAIRPERSON.* – The registered voters of the katipunang ng
7 kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall elect the
8 chairman of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR**
9 **CITIZENS** who shall **BOTH** automatically serve as **[an]** *ex officio* memberS
10 of the Sangguniang Barangay upon **[his]** **THEIR** assumption to office. As
11 such, **[he]** **THEY** shall exercise the same powers, discharge the same duties
12 and functions, and enjoy the same privileges as the regular Sangguniang
13 Barangay members, and shall be the chairman of the committee on youth
14 and sports development **AND COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS'**
15 **AFFAIRS, RESPECTIVELY**, in the said sanggunian.”
16

17 **SEC. 11. Amendment of Section 431 of the Code.** – Section 431 of the Code is
18 hereby further amended to read as follows:
19

20 “SECTION 431. *Powers and Duties of the Sangguniang Kabataan AND*
21 *SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS Chairman.* – In addition to the duties
22 which may be assigned to **[him]** **THEM** by the sangguniang barangay, the
23 sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**
24 **[chairman] CHAIRPERSONS** shall:
25

- 26 a) Call and preside over all meetings of the **RESPECTIVE** katipunan ng
27 kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS** and the
28 sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** within
29 **[HIS] THEIR** jurisdiction;

- 1
- 2 b) Implement policies, programs, and projects within his jurisdiction in
- 3 coordination with the sangguniang barangay;
- 4
- 5 c) Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the
- 6 sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** and
- 7 the official conduct of its members, and such other officers of the
- 8 sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** within
- 9 **[his] THEIR** jurisdiction;
- 10
- 11 d) With the concurrence of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG**
- 12 **SENIOR CITIZENS**, appoint from among the members of the sangguniang
- 13 kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**, the secretary and
- 14 treasurer and such other officers as may be deemed necessary; and
- 15
- 16 e) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as
- 17 may be prescribed by law or ordinance."
- 18

19 **SEC. 12.** *Amendment of Section 432 of the Code.* – Section 432 of the Code is

20 hereby further amended to read as follows:

21

22 "SECTION 432. *Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR*

23 *CITIZENS Secretary.* – The **RESPECTIVE** sangguniang kabataan **AND**

24 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** Secretary shall:

25

- 26 a) Keep all records of the katipunan ng Kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN NG**
- 27 **SENIOR CITIZENS** and the sangguniang kabataan **AND**
- 28 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**;
- 29

1 b) Prepare and keep the minutes of all meetings of the katipunang ng kabataan
2 **AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS** and sangguniang kabataan
3 **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**;

4
5 c) Prepare all forms necessary for the conduct of registrations, elections,
6 initiatives, referenda, or plebiscites, in coordination with the barangay
7 secretary and the COMELEC; and

8
9 d) Perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as the
10 chairman of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR**
11 **CITIZENS** may prescribe or direct.”

12
13 **SEC. 13. Amendment of Section 433 of the Code.** – Section 433 of the Code is
14 hereby further amended to read as follows:

15
16 “SECTION. 433. *Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR*
17 *CITIZENS Treasurer.* – The **RESPECTIVE** sangguniang kabataan **AND**
18 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** treasurer shall:

19
20 a) Take custody of all sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG**
21 **SENIOR CITIZENS** property and funds not otherwise deposited with the
22 city or municipal treasurer;

23
24 b) Collect and receive contributions, monies, materials, and all other resources
25 intended for the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR**
26 **CITIZENS** and the katipunan ng kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN NG**
27 **SENIOR CITIZENS**;

- 1 c) Disburse funds in accordance with an approved budget of the sangguniang
2 kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**;
3
4 d) Certify to the availability of funds whenever necessary;
5
6 e) Submit to the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR**
7 **CITIZENS** and to the sangguniang barangay certified and detailed
8 statements of actual income and expenditures at the end of every month;
9 and
10
11 f) Perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as the
12 chairman of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR**
13 **CITIZENS** may direct.”
14

15 **SEC. 14.** *Amendment of Section 434 of the Code.* – Section 434 of the Code is
16 hereby further amended to read as follows:
17

18 “SECTION 434. *Privileges of Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG*
19 *SENIOR CITIZENS Officials.* – The **RESPECTIVE** sangguniang kabataan
20 **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman shall have the same
21 privileges enjoyed by other sangguniang barangay officials under this Code,
22 subject to such requirements and limitations provided herein. During their
23 incumbency, sangguniang kabataan **AND LEGITIMATE OR**
24 **ACKNOWLEDGED NATURAL CHILDREN OF SANGGUNIANG**
25 **SENIOR CITIZENS** officials shall be exempt from payment of tuition and
26 matriculation fees while enrolled in public tertiary schools, including state
27 colleges and universities. The National Government shall reimburse said
28 college or university the amount of the tuition and matriculation fees:
29 *Provided, That,* to qualify for the privilege, the said officials or children shall

1 enroll in a state college or university within or nearest their area of
2 jurisdiction."

3
4 **SEC. 15.** *Amendment of Section 435 of the Code.* – Section 435 of the Code is
5 hereby further amended to read as follows:
6

7 "SECTION 435. *Succession and Filling of Vacancies.* – (a) In case a
8 sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**
9 chairman refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, is convicted of a felony,
10 voluntarily resigns, dies, is permanently incapacitated, is removed from
11 office, or has been absent without leave for more than three (3) consecutive
12 months, the sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR**
13 **CITIZENS** member who obtained the next highest number of votes in the
14 election immediately preceding shall assume the office of the chairman for
15 the unexpired portion of the term, and shall discharge the powers and
16 duties, and enjoy the rights and privileges appurtenant to the office. In case
17 said member refuses to assume the position or fails to qualify, the
18 sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** member
19 obtaining the next highest number of votes shall assume the position of the
20 chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.
21

22 (b) Where two (2) or more sangguniang kabataan **OR**
23 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** members obtained the same next
24 highest number of votes, the other sangguniang kabataan **OR**
25 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** members shall conduct an election
26 to choose the successor to the chairman from among said members.
27

28 (c) After the vacancy shall have been filled, the sangguniang kabataan
29 **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman shall call a special

1 election to complete the membership of said sangguniang
2 kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** member shall hold
3 office for the unexpired portion of the term of the vacant seat.
4

5 (d) In case of suspension of the sangguniang kabataan **OR**
6 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman, the successor, as
7 determined in subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall assume the
8 position during the period of such suspension.”
9

10 **SEC. 16.** *Amendment of Section 436 of the Code.* – Section 436 of the Code is
11 hereby further amended to read as follows:
12

13 “CHAPTER IX

14 Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan **AND**

15 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**

16 SECTION 436. *Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan AND*
17 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS.** – (a) There shall be an organization
18 of all the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND**
19 **SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** to be known as follows:
20

- 21 1) In municipalities, pambayang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan
22 **AND PAMBAYANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG**
23 **SENIOR CITIZENS;**
24
25 2) In cities, panlungsod na pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND**
26 **PANLUNGSOD NA PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG**
27 **SENIOR CITIZENS;**
28

1 3) In provinces, panlalawigang pederasyon ng sangguniang kabataan AND
2 PANLALAWIGANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG
3 SENIOR CITIZENS;

4
5 4) In special metropolitan political subdivisions, pangmetropolitang
6 pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan AND
7 PANGMETROPOLITANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG
8 SENIOR CITIZENS; and

9
10 5) On the national level, pambansang pederasyon ng sangguniang kabataan
11 AND PAMBANSANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG
12 SENIOR CITIZENS.

13
14 (b) The pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan AND
15 PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS shall, at
16 all levels, elect from among themselves the president, vice-president and
17 such other officers as may be necessary and shall be organized in the
18 following manner:

19
20 1) The panlungsod and pambayang pederasyon shall be composed of the
21 sangguniang kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS
22 chairmen of barangays in the city or municipality, respectively;

23
24 2) The panlalawigang pederasyon shall be composed of presidents of the
25 panlungsod and pambayang pederasyon;

26
27 3) The pangmetropolitang pederasyon shall be composed of presidents of the
28 panlungsod and pambayang pederasyon;

1 (c) The elected presidents of the pederasyon at the provincial, highly
2 urbanized city, and metropolitan political subdivision levels shall constitute
3 the pambansang katipunan ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND**
4 **PAMBANSANG KATIPUNAN NG MGA SENIOR CITIZENS.**"

5
6 **SEC. 17. Amendment of Section 437 of the Code.** – Section 437 of the Code is
7 hereby further amended to read as follows:

8
9 "SECTION 437. *Constitution and By-Laws.* – The term of office, manner of
10 election, removal and suspension of the officers of the pederasyon ng mga
11 sangguniang kabataan **AND PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG**
12 **SENIOR CITIZENS** at all levels shall be governed by the constitution and
13 by-laws of the pederasyon in conformity with the provisions of the Code
14 and national policies on youth **AND SENIOR CITIZENS.**"

15
16 **SEC. 18. Amendment of Section 438 of the Code.** – Section 438 of the Code is
17 hereby further amended to read as follows:

18
19 "SECTION 438. *Membership in the Sanggunian.* – (a) A sangguniang
20 kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman shall,
21 upon certification of his election by the COMELEC and during his tenure of
22 office is elected as Pederasyon President, serve as an *ex officio* member of the
23 Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang
24 Bayan, as the case may be, without need of further appointment.

25
26 (b) The vice-president of the pederasyon whose president has been
27 elected as president of a higher pederasyon shall serve as *ex officio* member
28 of the sanggunian concerned without need of further appointment.
29

1 (c) The pederasyon president or vice-president, as the case may be, OF
2 THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN shall be the chairman of the
3 committee on youth and sports development, WHILE THAT OF THE
4 SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF
5 THE COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS' AFFAIRS of the sanggunian
6 concerned."

7
8 SEC. 19. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared
9 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby
10 shall remain in full force and effect.

11
12 SEC. 20. *Repealing Clause.* - Certain provisions of R.A. 7160 are hereby
13 amended accordingly. All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
14 proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances and enactments of parts thereof
15 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

16
17 SEC. 21. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general.

19
20 *Approved,*