

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9862



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NURSING HOME FOR HOMELESS AND ABANDONED
SENIOR CITIZENS IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY IN THE PHILIPPINES,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

It is difficult to imagine elderly abandonment as real in the Philippines. Family relationships, even those up to the second and third degree of affinity matter. However, abandoning the elderly in the country is slowly and silently increasing in number.

More than 8 million, or 8.2 percent, of the Philippines' population of 108.9 million are aged 60 and above, per a report of the Commission on Population and Development. Of this group, 5 million (or 4.7 percent) are aged 65 and older.

Our senior citizens are expected to increase in number in the coming years, and abandonment is an issue that our government has to face. At present, the care for abandonment elderly often go to the care of private and religious institutions.

The rising incidents of abandonment of the elderly in the country can be attributed to various reasons including rising cost of living, lack of health insurance, busy schedules and more. This bill seeks to establish a nursing home that will care for the elderly to be operated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in every city or municipality in the Philippines.

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


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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

SEC. 1. **Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Homes for Abandoned Seniors Act."

SEC. 2. **Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person, guarantee full respect for human rights, extend assistance to its elderly citizens through programs of social security, and promote the right to health and safety of senior citizens. Towards this end, the State shall extend assistance to abandoned and homeless senior citizens through a social care and security program.

SEC. 3. **Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

a. *Abandoned Senior Citizen* refers to a senior citizen who has been deserted, permanently or temporarily, by his relatives or persons who have general or legal responsibility over the senior citizen, and/or from whom all basic care has been withdrawn, whether willfully or not;

b. *Homeless Senior Citizen* refers to a senior who lacks a fixed, regular residence, or whose current residence is unfit for human habitation, or lacks resources to obtain proper housing;

c. *Nursing Home* refers to a home for the aged, established and maintained under this Act by a city or municipality which provides living accommodations, food and clothing, medical and health care, and recreational and social interaction activities for abandoned senior citizens or homeless senior citizens;

d. *Senior Citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years of age.

SEC. 4. ***Establishment of Nursing Homes.*** – There shall be established in every municipality and city, a nursing home to serve abandoned senior citizens and homeless senior citizens, to be built by the local government units (LGUs) concerned and shall be operated and maintained by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the LGUs concerned.

SEC. 5. ***Functions of Nursing Homes.*** – The nursing homes shall provide homeless senior citizens or abandoned senior citizens within its territorial jurisdiction institutionalized residential care programs and services such as but not limited to:

- a. Comfortable living quarters;
- b. Adequate food and clothing;
- c. Medical consultation or treatment;
- d. Health care;
- e. Occupational opportunities;
- f. Recreational and social interaction activities;
- g. Counseling;
- h. Case conference;
- i. Family dialogue;
- j. Outreach to existing family for reintegration;
- k. Literacy education;
- l. Productivity development;
- m. Religious, cultural and vocational activities.

SEC. 6. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DSWD, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health and the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations of the Philippines, and Confederation of Older Persons Associations of the Philippines, shall hereby promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions this Act not later than ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 7. ***Exemptions of the Nursing Home.*** – The established nursing home shall be exempted from the payment of customs duties, taxes, and tariffs on the importation of equipment and supplies used actually, directly, and exclusively by the nursing home pursuant to this Act, including those donated to the Nursing Home.

SEC. 8. ***Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

SEC. 9. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national papers of general

circulation.

Approved,