

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **10205**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

Section 11. The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

Section 4, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution provides:

Section 4. The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.

It is clear that the State places an importance on the health and welfare of the elderly.

Filipinos generally take care of each and every member of their family, and have always shown respect for the elderly (or senior citizens). Unfortunately, there are some cases that senior citizens are neglected because of various reasons, including lack of resources. In such cases, the State has to step in to ensure that senior citizens are not neglected.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A NURSING HOME FOR THE ABANDONED AND NEGLECTED SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE 2ND DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY TO SERVE BARANGAYS 1-20, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. There is hereby established a nursing home for the abandoned and neglected senior citizens in the 2nd District of Cagayan de Oro City to serve Barangays 1-20.

Sec 2. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. *Senior Citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years of age.
- b. *Abandoned and Neglected 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or persons who have general or legal responsibility over the senior citizen, and/or from whom all basic care has been withdrawn, whether willfully or not.
- c. *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.
- d. *Nursing Home* refers to a home for the aged, established and maintained under this Act by each province 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; and,

Sec 3. The Nursing Home established by this Act shall be built, operated and maintained by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the local government of Cagayan de Oro City.

Sec 4. Functions of Nursing Homes. The nursing homes shall provide homeless senior citizens or abandoned senior citizens within its territorial jurisdiction an institutionalized residential care program 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. Outreach to existing family for reintegration.
- i. Literacy education.
- j. Productivity development; and,
- k. Religious, cultural, and vocational activities.

Sec 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DSWD, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, the local government of Cagayan de Oro City, and other civil society organizations advancing the welfare of senior citizens to be identified by the DSWD, shall hereby promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions this Act not later than ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

Sec 6. 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 7. 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 8. 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 9. 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,