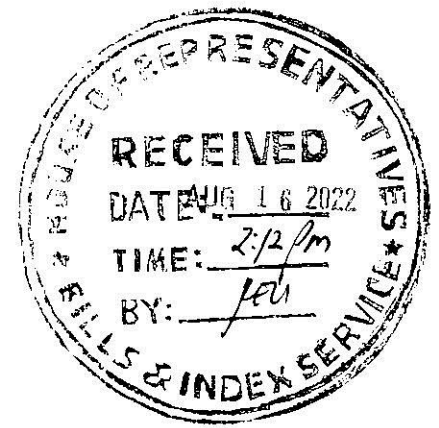


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3678



**Introduced by HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA,
HONORABLE FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS, HONORABLE
MARCELINO C. LIBANAN, HONORABLE DEAN ASISTIO, HONORABLE
NICOLAS C. ENCISO III AND HONORABLE RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, poverty incidence in the country during the first semester of 2021 increased by 2.6 percentage points to 23.7% from 21.1%.¹ The number of poor Filipinos increased by 3.88 million to 26.14 million in the first semester of 2021 from 22.26 million in the same period of 2018.² Undeniably, many Filipinos live in extreme poverty and still die poor and indebted until the end. Access to decent and proper funeral remains arduous for most poor Filipinos due to the exorbitant services of funeral homes.

The minimum cost for funeral expenses ranges between P8,000.00 to P15,000.00. The price remains expensive for poor Filipinos as they struggle to meet their daily needs and sustenance. Due to financial constraints, many families cannot claim the body of their loved ones from funeral homes and give them decent and proper burial.

This bill seeks to mandate that all funeral parlors, funeral homes, and services in the country to include indigent funeral packages in two (2) forms, indigent burial package and indigent cremation package, in their services to be availed by poor individuals and their families. The amount for the indigent funeral package shall not exceed the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00).

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority, 2021 First Semester Poverty Statistics, Proportion of Poor Filipinos Registered at 23.7 Percent in the First Semester of 2021. Data retrieved from <https://psa.gov.ph/content/proportion-poor-filipinos-registered-237-percent-first-semester-2021>

² Ibid.

Those who have less in life, should have more in law. The access to proper funeral service is not only a right for the deceased person, but also our dire manifestation to recognize the plight of the poor and their bereaved families.

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



RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III



BRYAN B. REVILLA



MARCELINO C. LIBANAN



NICOLAS C. ENCISO III



LANI MERCADO-REVILLA



FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS



DEAN ASISTIO



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3678**

**Introduced by HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA,
HONORABLE FERDINAND ALEXANDER A. MARCOS, HONORABLE
MARCELINO C. LIBANAN, HONORABLE DEAN ASISTIO, HONORABLE
NICOLAS C. ENCISO III AND HONORABLE RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

**AN ACT
MANDATING ALL FUNERAL PARLORS, FUNERAL HOMES AND SERVICES IN
THE COUNTRY TO INCLUDE AN INDIGENT FUNERAL PACKAGE FOR POOR
INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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 “Indigent Funeral Package”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the policy of the State to provide for funeral assistance to decedents whose bodies remain unclaimed, regardless of the causes of death, as well as to decedents whose families are indigent and cannot afford a proper funeral for the deceased.

SECTION 3. *Indigent Funeral Package.* – It is hereby mandated that all funeral parlors, funeral homes, and funeral services in the country shall include an indigent burial package and an indigent cremation package in their services, and either package may be availed of by indigent individuals and their families at their discretion. The amount shall not exceed the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00). It shall include, but not limited, to the following:

- (1) for indigent burial package:

- (a) Retrieval of deceased;
- (b) Embalming of deceased;
- (c) Selection of casket by authorized person and/or family members;
- (d) Viewing of body; and
- (e) Interment of body.

(2) For indigent cremation package:

- (a) Retrieval of the deceased;
- (b) Cremation of the deceased; and
- (c) Viewing of the urn.

SECTION 4. *Penalty Clause.* — Any person, corporation and/or entity of funeral parlors, funeral homes, and services found violating Section 3 of this Act shall be punished by a fine not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.