

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5228



Introduced by HON. ALAN "ALDU" R. DUJALI

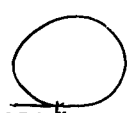
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 11 of the Constitution declares that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights – a statement that serves as one of the foundations of good governance in modern society. In the span of the lifetime of every Filipino, the government upholds this tenet with utmost vigilance as it performs its mandate to provide citizens a comfortable and dignified life.

In 2021, a total of 879,429 deaths were registered in the Philippines, which is a significant increase from 613,936 in 2020, and 620,414 in 2019. It is common practice for relatives of the deceased who are qualified indigents to receive burial assistance from Local Government Units through the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Many other government agencies such as the Government Service Insurance System, Social Security System, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office provide the same assistance, subject to the respective office's mandatory contribution and/ or documentary requirements.

The purpose of this act is to expand and institutionalize the provision of burial assistance to every Filipino citizen who dies within Philippine territory regardless of status, background, and profession. Because the nature of burial expenses is urgent and inescapable, this act aims to expedite the process for this request through the requirement of minimal documents. This provision will serve as the government's final act of financial and public service to taxpaying Filipinos who unequivocally deserve decent burials—in pursuit of reaffirming their human dignity even in death, and to some degree; easing the pain of their loss for their loved ones.

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


HON. ALAN "ALDU" R. DUJALI
Representative
2nd District, Davao Del Norte

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House Bill No. **5226**

Introduced by HON. ALAN "ALDU" R. DUJALI

**"AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF BURIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF
TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 20,000.00) FOR EVERY FILIPINO CITIZEN WHO DIES WITHIN
PHILIPPINE TERRITORY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Burial Assistance Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover every Filipino citizen who dies within Philippine territory.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Burial Assistance.* For purposes of this Act, "Burial Assistance" shall be understood to mean as a cash grant given for the purpose of paying the burial expenses of the deceased Filipino citizen.

SEC. 4. *Provision of Burial Assistance.* – Every Filipino citizen who die of whatever causes within Philippine territory shall be eligible for a provision of burial assistance in the amount of twenty thousand pesos (PHP 20,000.00).

SEC. 5. *Eligible Recipient of Burial Assistance.* – The eligible recipients are the next of kin according to the ff. order: 1) Spouse if capable; 2) Child or; 3) Closest living relative. In the absence of any direct living relative or in the case of multiple claimants, the Department of Social Welfare and Development will determine the authorized recipient.

SEC. 6. *Requirements to Receive Burial Assistance.* – The eligible or authorized recipient must present the ff.: 1) Death certificate issued by the local hospital, local health unit or whichever is applicable; and 2) Proof of relationship with the deceased – the capable spouse must present marriage certificate and the child must present birth certificate.

To facilitate timely claims, the certifying local hospital or health unit must release the death certificate without delay.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* The burial assistance provision shall be charged to the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development given in a fiscal year.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Department of Social Welfare and Development, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Department of Budget and Management shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* — Provisions herein which may be declared unconstitutional shall not revoke the effectivity and enforcement of other provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or part or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect after five (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever date comes earlier.

Approved,