



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5444



Introduced by HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE DESK IN EVERY BARANGAY

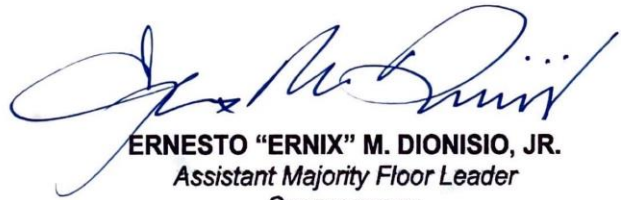
EXPLANATORY NOTE

As Filipinos, we have traditionally given high regard for the elderly members of our families. Due consideration is given to them not only out of respect but also due to their constitution. As such, it is the duty of the State to ensure that consideration be given to the elderly in the delivery of government services.

Considering the foregoing, this bill proposes the establishment of Senior Citizens Desk in every barangay to ensure that the immediate concern of the elderly is timely and properly address. The goal of the Senior Citizens Desk shall be to cater to the complaints of the elderly members of our population and aid them in finding proper solutions to the same.

The measure also mandates that officials assigned to manage this government service are trained to address the concerns of the elderly.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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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 "*Senior Citizens Desk Act.*"

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the duty of the State to give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society. Towards this end, the State shall enact measures to ensure their protection and safe-being by implementing community-based programs that the elderly may easily access.

Section 3. Senior Citizens Desk. - There shall hereby be established in every barangay a Senior Citizens Desk through which all senior citizens may lodge complaints, make inquiries, or ask for any form of assistance and aid, on issues concerning them, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Violations of their benefits and privileges under existing laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations;
- b) Cases of abuse, discrimination, or maltreatment;
- c) Abandonment and withdrawal of support from their family or relatives; and
- d) Grievances and complaints, in general.

The barangay officials assigned to the Welfare Desk shall assist the elderly in referring, bringing up, or presenting his/her case, complaint, or issue to the proper government office or to the Lupong Tagapamayapa. Each Senior Citizens Desk shall set up a system for the proper monitoring and following up of the cases, complaints or

issues received by them and shall regularly provide feedback and updates to the senior citizen concerned, taking their convenience into utmost consideration.

Section 4. Training of Senior Citizens Desk Officials. – The corresponding Office of Senior Citizens Affairs of the city or municipality shall provide the necessary and regular training and guidance to the barangay officials assigned to their respective Senior Citizens Desk on the handling and responding to complaints and grievances, procedures for referral to different government offices, and information dissemination on the various rights and benefits of senior citizens.

Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Commission on Senior Citizens in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

Section 8. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,