

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6885



Introduced by

Senior Citizens Party-List Representative RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9994 or "the Expanded Senior Citizens Act" provided that each city and municipality in the Philippines shall establish an Office of the Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA) headed by the OSCA Head, a senior citizen appointed by the city or municipal mayor. To date, we have more than 1,500 OSCA Heads throughout the Philippines.

Unfortunately, while OSCA Heads wield significant responsibilities which are comparable to the responsibilities of the local government unit's (LGU) department heads, such as but not limited to, the issuance of senior citizen identification cards, management of the government's programs and projects for senior citizens within their jurisdiction, assist senior citizens regarding their concerns, among others, they only receive honoraria compared to the fixed salary grade being received by their colleagues in the LGU. Furthermore, in most cases, their staff and office are not formalized and rely significantly on the discretion of the appointing authority.

This runs contrary to the goal of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act to improve the services, programs, and projects of our LGUs to senior citizens by formalizing and professionalizing their respective OSCA offices. For the LGUs to get the best and the brightest senior citizens to serve as OSCA heads, we have to ensure that they receive proper remuneration for their service and the right amount of manpower, logistics, and capital support.

Thus, this Bill seeks to expand the OSCA by introducing the position of the Assistant OSCA Head who will assist the OSCA Head in the OSCA's day-to-day activities, and give them the proper remuneration they deserve by assigning a salary grade to the position which is at least equal to that being received by other department heads of the LGU concerned.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

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AN ACT

AN ACT EXPANDING THE OFFICE FOR SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS (OSCA) AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO ITS HEAD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT (RA) NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING RA NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATIONAL BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS, AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "OSCA Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. Section 2 of RA No. 9994 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. *The Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA).* –

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"The head of the OSCA shall be entitled to receive an honorarium of an amount at least equivalent to Salary Grade 10 to be approved by the LGU concerned to a salary grade at least equivalent to those received by the Provincial Government Department Head in the case of provinces, the City Government Department Head III in the case of Special Cities, the City Government Head II in the case of Highly Urbanized Cities/ Other Metropolitan Manila Cities, City

Government Department Head I in the case of Component Cities, the Municipal Government Department Head II in the case of municipalities within the Metropolitan Manila, and the Municipal Government Department Head I in the case of municipalities outside of Metropolitan Manila.

"The head of the OSCA shall be assisted by **the Assistant OSCA Head, whose salary grade shall be one grade lower than that of the OSCA Head**, and the City Social Welfare and Development officer or by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer, in coordination with the Social Welfare and Development Office. Xxx

"The OSCA shall have the following functions:

"xxx

(h) To be the principal department of the local government unit in determining and implementing programs and projects for senior citizens using the at least 1% annual budgetary allocation for senior citizens in the general fund as mandated by law and any other fund allocated to senior citizens thereof."

SEC. 3. *Supplementary Application.* – For purposes of this Act, the Revised Penal Code, and other applicable laws, shall have supplementary application.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*– All laws, presidential decrees executive orders rules, and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*– This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.