

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 433



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF
SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND
SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The population of senior citizens in the Philippines continues to grow significantly. As of 2023, senior citizens (those aged 60 and above) comprise around 9.7 million or roughly 8.8% of the total Philippine population, according to estimates from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). This demographic shift presents challenges and opportunities, particularly in public health and social protection.

Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, was enacted to recognize the invaluable contribution of senior citizens to nation-building and to grant them benefits and privileges to ensure their well-being. However, the evolving needs of the elderly, especially in health and nutrition, necessitate a stronger and more focused approach.

This bill seeks to strengthen the national health program for senior citizens by institutionalizing a comprehensive nutrition and wellness program, creating geriatric wards in government hospitals, and requiring local government units (LGUs) to integrate these health initiatives into their regular programs for seniors.

It mandates the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with LGUs, non-government organizations, and people's organizations for senior citizens, to implement an integrated health service specifically designed for the elderly. It also provides for establishing a "senior citizens' ward" in every government hospital to ensure age-appropriate care. The National Nutrition Council, in collaboration with the DOH and LGUs, is directed to prepare and disseminate a comprehensive nutrition and wellness program tailored to the needs of senior citizens. Furthermore, LGUs and the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) are tasked with conducting regular home visits to senior citizens, integrating the wellness program in their services, and submitting monthly progress reports to the DOH.

With the increased incidence of age-related diseases, such as hypertension, diabetes, and visual impairment, among Filipino seniors, access to preventive and geriatric care is not just a health issue but a matter of dignity and equity. The implementation of this Act will enable our aging population to live healthier, more meaningful lives, while also reducing the burden on families and the healthcare system.

This measure was already approved on Third and Final Reading in the House of Representatives and has been transmitted to the Senate for its concurrence during the 19th Congress.

As such, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



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

1 SECTION 1. Section 5 (c) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is further
2 amended as follows:

3 **"SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.*** – The government shall provide the
4 following:

5 (a) x x x

6 (b) x x x

7 (c) Health

8 "The DOH, in coordination with local government units (LGUs),
9 NGOs and POs for senior citizens, shall institute a national health program
10 and shall provide an integrated health service for senior citizens. It shall
11 train community-based health workers among senior citizens and health
12 personnel to specialize in the geriatric care and health problems of senior
13 citizens.

1 **"The national health program for senior citizens THAT INCLUDES**
2 **A COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM** shall,
3 among others, be harmonized with the National Prevention of Blindness
4 Program of the DOH.

5 **"Throughout the country, there shall be established a "senior citizens'**
6 **ward" in every government hospital. This geriatric ward shall be for the**
7 **exclusive use of senior citizens who are in need of hospital confinement by**
8 **reason of their health conditions. However, when urgency of public**
9 **necessity or emergency purposes so require, such geriatric ward may be**
10 **used for emergency purposes, after which, such "senior citizens' ward"**
11 **shall be reverted to its nature as geriatric ward.**

12 **"THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL SHALL, IN**
13 **COORDINATION WITH THE DOH AND LGUS, PREPARE THE**
14 **COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR**
15 **DISSEMINATION TO SENIOR CITIZENS TO SERVE AS GUIDE FOR**
16 **THEIR HEALTHY LIVING.**

17 **"THE LGUS SHALL, THROUGH THE LOCAL HEALTH**
18 **PERSONNEL, REGULARLY VISIT EVERY SENIOR CITIZEN WITHIN**
19 **THEIR JURISDICTION AS PLATFORM FOR PRIMARY CARE AND**
20 **TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES AS WELL AS FOLLOW THROUGH ON**
21 **COMPLIANCE TO A HEALTHY DIET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE**
22 **COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM**
23 **APPROPRIATE TO THEIR HEALTH CONDITIONS.**

24 **"LIKEWISE, THE LGUS SHALL, THROUGH THE OFFICE FOR**
25 **THE SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS (OSCA), INTEGRATE THE**
26 **COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM IN**
27 **THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. THE**
28 **OSCA SHALL SUBMIT A MONTHLY REPORT ON THE STATUS OF**
29 **THE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM TO THE DOH."**

30 SEC. 2. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of
31 the Interior and Local Government shall, in consultation with the National Nutrition

1 Council and Secretary of Health, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for
2 the effective implementation of this Act.

3 SEC. 3. All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, executive orders, letters of
4 instruction, rules or regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the
5 provisions of this Act are repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

6 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
7 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

8 *Approved,*