

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1677



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

AN ACT EXPANDING THE OFFICE OF SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS (OSCA) AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO ITS HEAD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 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"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), as established under Republic Act No. 7432 and further strengthened by Republic Act No. 9994 or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," plays a crucial role in the local implementation of policies, programs, and services for senior citizens. However, despite the growing needs of our elderly population and the increasingly complex responsibilities of the OSCA, its current structure and compensation framework have mainly remained inadequate.

This bill seeks to expand and strengthen the OSCA by upgrading its organizational structure, clarifying its role as the principal department in local governments tasked with formulating and implementing programs for senior citizens, and enhancing the compensation and support provided to its head and personnel.

Specifically, it aims to provide the Head of OSCA with a compensation level comparable to that of equivalent department head positions in local government units (LGUs), thereby acknowledging the importance and scope of their responsibilities. It also establishes the position of an Assistant OSCA Head, who will also receive a corresponding salary grade. It also strengthens OSCA's role as the lead implementer of senior citizens' programs, utilizing the mandated annual budgetary allocation from the LGU general fund and other appropriated funds.

The proposed measure acknowledges that a more empowered and better-resourced OSCA will lead to more effective and responsive service delivery for our senior citizens. As the elderly population continues to grow, local governments must be equipped with the capacity and leadership necessary to fulfill their responsibilities to this vital sector of society.

In recognition of the senior citizens' continued contributions to nation-building and in pursuit of improving their welfare and protection, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rodolfo', written over the printed name.

RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “OSCA Expansion
2 *Act.*”

3 SEC. 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the
4 “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,” is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 “SEC. 6. The Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA). –

6 xxx

7 “The head of the OSCA shall be entitled to ~~receive an~~
8 ~~honorarium of an amount at least equivalent to Salary Grade 10~~
9 ~~to be approved by the LGU concerned to a salary grade at least~~
10 **equivalent to those received by the Provincial Government**
11 **Department Head in the case of provinces, the City**
12 **Government Department Head III in the case of special cities,**
13 **the City Government Head II in the case of Highly urbanized**
14 **cities/other Metropolitan Manila cities, City Government**
15 **Department Head I in the case of component cities, the**
16 **Municipal Government Department Head II in the case of**
17 **municipalities within the Metropolitan Manila, and the**
18 **Municipal Government Department Head I in the case of**
19 **municipalities outside of Metropolitan Manila.**

1 “The head of the OSCA shall be assisted by **the Assistant OSCA**
2 **Head, whose salary grade shall be one grade lower than that of**
3 **the OSCA Head**, and the City Social Welfare and Development
4 Officer or by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development
5 Officer, in coordination with the Social Welfare and
6 Development Office. xxx

7
8 “The OSCA shall have the following functions:

9 xxx

10 **(h) To be the principal department of the local government unit**
11 **in determining and implementing the programs and projects**
12 **for senior citizens using the annual budgetary allocation for**
13 **senior citizens in the general fund as mandated by law and any**
14 **other funds allocated to senior citizens thereof.”**

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

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

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

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

25 *Approved,*