

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1678



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SANGGUNIAN SENIOR CITIZENS TO PROVIDE A
PLATFORM TO PARTICIPATE IN NATION-BUILDING AND PROMOTE THEIR
WELFARE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior citizens have long been active contributors to society, and their continued involvement in community life is essential to inclusive, participatory, and responsive local governance. With the senior population in the Philippines steadily increasing, there is a growing need to provide structures that empower them to engage meaningfully in governance and development processes at the grassroots level.

The proposed measure, titled the "Sangguniang Senior Citizens Act of 2025," seeks to institutionalize the active participation of senior citizens in barangay governance through the creation of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens and the Sangguniang Senior Citizens in every barangay. These bodies will be responsible for planning, implementing, and monitoring programs and activities that respond to the needs and aspirations of senior citizens in their communities.

This legislation aims to empower senior citizens with meaningful roles and responsibilities, enabling them to formulate development plans and budgets, propose and implement barangay-level projects aligned with the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) and Local Development Plans, partner with national and local agencies for livelihood, health, wellness, climate action, and other advocacies, ensure transparency and accountability in the use of public funds allocated for senior citizens, and promote values of nation-building through continuous capability-building, training, and civic engagement.

In light of the State's constitutional mandate to promote social justice and uphold the dignity and welfare of the elderly, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought. It recognizes that age should not be a barrier to civic duty, and that when empowered, senior citizens are indispensable agents of social development and good governance.

Given the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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WELFARE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Sangguniang Senior Citizens Act.*”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes the vital role of senior citizens in nation-building and must include them in the process of governance to ensure that we maximize their contribution in nation-building and promote social justice for them.

Towards this end, the State shall establish an enabling structure and mechanisms to enable senior citizens to meaningfully participate in nation-building and local governance meaningfully.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined:

- (a) Commission shall refer to the National Commission of Senior Citizens created under Republic Act No. 11350;
- (b) Local Chief Executive shall refer to the provincial governor, city and municipal mayor, as the case may be;
- (c) Local Government Operations Officer shall refer to the duly designated head of the office of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) stationed in the concerned local government unit;
- (d) Local Sanggunian shall refer to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang Bayan;
- (e) Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) shall refer to the duly appointed office of senior citizens which assists and handles the concerns of senior citizens within their respective locality;
- (f) Senior citizen or elderly refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old;
- (g) Senior Citizens Organizations shall refer to those organizations whose membership/composition are the senior citizens; and
- (h) Senior Citizen-Serving Organizations shall refer to those registered organizations whose principal programs, projects, and activities are for senior citizens or are

1 senior citizens-related.

2
3 **CHAPTER II**
4 **THE KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE SANGGUNIANG SENIOR**
5 **CITIZENS**
6

7 SEC. 4. *Katipunan ng Senior Citizens.* – There shall be in every barangay a Katipunan
8 ng Senior Citizens to be composed of all citizens in the Philippines residing in the barangay
9 for at least six (6) months, who are at least sixty (60) years of age, and who are duly registered
10 in the list of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and/or the records of the Sangguniang
11 Senior Citizens secretary.

12 SEC. 5. *Powers and Functions of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens.* – The Katipunan
13 ng Senior Citizens shall:

- 14 (a) Elect the Sangguniang Senior Citizens chairperson and members; and
15 (b) Serve as the highest policy-making body to decide on matters affecting the Senior
16 Citizens in the barangay. As such, the Sangguniang Senior Citizens shall consult
17 and secure the concurrence of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens in the formulation
18 of all its programs, plans, and activities.

19 SEC. 6. *Meetings of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens.* – The Katipunan ng Senior
20 Citizens shall meet at least once every four (4) months or at the call of the Chairperson of the
21 Sangguniang Senior Citizens or upon written petition of at least one twentieth (1/20) of its
22 members, to decide on important issues affecting the Senior Citizens of the barangay.

23 SEC. 7. *Creation and Election of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens.* – There shall be in
24 every barangay a Sangguniang Senior Citizens to be composed of a Chairperson and nine (9)
25 members who shall be elected by the registered voters of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens.
26 The Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson shall, with the concurrence of the majority of
27 the Sangguniang Senior Citizens members, appoint from among the members of the
28 Katipunan ng Senior Citizens a secretary and a treasurer.

29 SEC. 8. *Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens.* – The Sangguniang
30 Senior Citizens shall:

- 31 (a) In consultation and with the concurrence of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens, and
32 within three (3) months from assumption to office, formulate a three (3) year
33 rolling plan, which shall be known as the Barangay Senior Citizens Development
34 Plan, which shall serve as basis in the preparation of the Annual Barangay Senior
35 Citizens Appropriation Act. This plan shall be aligned with the Philippine
36 Development (PDP) and the Local Senior Citizens Development Plans in every
37 level, municipal, city, and provincial as is relevant;
38 (b) Approve the annual budget, which is the annual slice of the Annual Barangay
39 Senior Citizens Appropriations Act, before the start of the succeeding fiscal years,
40 and, if the Sangguniang Senior Citizens funds allow, a supplemental budget. Any
41 changes in the annual budget shall be in accordance with the existing applicable
42 budget rules and procedures;
43 (c) Promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the Senior Citizens
44 in the barangay in accordance with the Barangay Senior Citizens Development
45 Plan and the applicable provisions of this Act;
46 (d) Initiate and implement, in coordination with any national government agency
47 and/or any private or non-government institution, programs, and projects
48 designed to promote the general welfare, development, and empowerment of the
49 Senior Citizens;
50 (e) Hold fund-raising activities which are in line with the Barangay Senior Citizens
51 Development Plan, the proceeds of which shall be tax-exempt and shall accrue to
52 the general fund of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens: *Provided, however, That in*

1 the appropriation thereof, the specific purpose for which such activity has been
2 held shall be first satisfied: Provided, further, That any appropriation thereof shall
3 be in accordance with existing applicable budget, accounting, and auditing rules
4 and regulations;

- 5 (f) Create regular and special committees and such other bodies whose Chairpersons
6 and members shall come from among the members of the Sangguniang Senior
7 Citizens or from among the members of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens, as it
8 may deem necessary to effectively carry out its programs and activities;
- 9 (g) Submit the annual and end-of-term program accomplishments and financial
10 reports to the Sangguniang Barangay and present the same during the Katipunan
11 ng Senior Citizens assembly, copy furnished by the Office of the Local Government
12 Operations Officer and the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), all in
13 accordance with the prescribed form by the DILG and the Commission;
- 14 (h) Partner with the OSCA in planning and executing projects and programs of
15 specific advocacies, such as good governance, climate change adaptation, disaster
16 risk reduction, and resiliency, senior citizens' employment and livelihood, health
17 and anti-drug abuse, gender sensitivity, and sports development;
- 18 (i) Adopt and implement a policy on full public disclosure of all its transactions and
19 documents involving public interest; and
- 20 (j) Exercise such other powers and perform such other functions as may be prescribed
21 by law or ordinance, or delegated by the Sangguniang Barangay or the
22 Commission.

23 **SEC. 9. *Meetings of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens.* -**

- 24 (a) The Sangguniang Senior Citizens shall meet regularly once a month on the date,
25 time, and place to be fixed by the said Sanggunian. Special meetings may be called
26 by the Chairperson or any four (4) of its members by giving written notice of the
27 date, time, place, and agenda of the meeting, which can be sent either through
28 personal delivery, registered mail, fax, or email, to all members, and must be
29 received at least one (1) day in advance. The Sangguniang Barangay, the National
30 Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), and the local OSCA shall be furnished
31 with notices of regular and special meetings and the minutes of these meetings
32 thereafter.
- 33 (b) A majority of the members including the chairperson shall constitute a *quorum*.

34 **SEC. 10. *Qualifications.* -** An official of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens, either
35 elective or appointee, must be a citizen of the Philippines, a qualified voter of the Katipunan
36 ng Senior Citizens, a resident of the barangay for not less than one (1) year immediately
37 preceding the day of the elections, at least sixty (60) years of age on the day of the elections,
38 able to read and write Filipino, English, or the local dialect, must not be related within the
39 second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any incumbent elected national official or
40 to any incumbent elected regional, provincial, city, municipal, or barangay official, in the
41 locality where he or she seeks to be elected, and must not have been convicted by final
42 judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude.

43 **SEC. 11. *Term of Office.* -**

- 44 (a) The chairperson and members of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens shall hold office
45 for a fixed term of three (3) years unless sooner removed for cause or by a majority
46 vote of all members of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens in a regular or special
47 assembly called for the purpose, permanently incapacitated, have died or resigned
48 from office.
- 49 (b) The Sangguniang Senior Citizens secretary and treasurer shall be coterminous
50 with the appointing authority unless sooner removed for cause, found to have
51 failed from the discharge of his or her duties, or has committed an abuse of
52 authority as stipulated in existing laws pertaining to the conduct of public officials,

1 through a majority vote of all the members of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens in
2 a regular or special assembly called for the purpose.

3 SEC. 12. *Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson.* - The chairperson of the
4 Sangguniang Senior Citizens shall automatically serve as an ex officio member of the
5 Sangguniang Barangay upon assumption of office. As such, he or she shall exercise the same
6 powers, discharge the same duties and functions, and enjoy the same privileges as the regular
7 Sangguniang Barangay members, and shall be the Chairperson of the Committee on Senior
8 Citizens and Sports Development. He or she shall be entitled to a pro rata honorarium for
9 every session of the Sangguniang Barangay he or she has attended.

10 SEC. 13. *Powers and Functions of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson.* - The
11 Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson shall exercise such powers and discharge such
12 duties as follows:

- 13 (a) Call and preside over all meetings of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens, and vote in
14 case of a tie, and assemblies of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens, except when one
15 (1) of the agenda to be discussed in such assembly involves the disciplinary action
16 against the Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson, in which case, the highest-
17 ranking Sangguniang Senior Citizens member shall preside;
- 18 (b) Take the lead in the formulation of the Barangay Senior Citizens Development Plan
19 and the preparation and implementation of the Annual Barangay Senior Citizens
20 Appropriation Act;
- 21 (c) Ensure the implementation of policies, programs, and projects as contained in the
22 Annual Barangay Senior Citizens Appropriation Act, in coordination with the
23 Sangguniang Barangay, the NCSC, and the local OSCA;
- 24 (d) Sign all required documents and warrants drawn from the Sangguniang Senior
25 Citizens' funds for all expenditures in the implementation of the Barangay Senior
26 Citizens Development Plan and Annual Barangay Senior Citizens Appropriation
27 Act;
- 28 (e) Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the Sangguniang
29 Senior Citizens and the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens, as well as the official
30 conduct of its members;
- 31 (f) With the concurrence of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens, appoint from among the
32 members of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens a secretary and a treasurer;
- 33 (g) Coordinate with the Sangguniang Barangay and other Senior Citizens
34 organizations within his or her barangay on Senior Citizens-related programs and
35 projects that they wish to initiate and implement; and
- 36 (h) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may
37 be prescribed by law or ordinance.

38 SEC. 14. *Sangguniang Senior Citizens Secretary.* - The Sangguniang Senior Citizens
39 secretary shall:

- 40 (a) Keep all the records of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens, including the list of its
41 qualified members, Senior Citizens policies, studies, research, and registry of
42 Senior Citizens and Senior Citizens-serving organizations in the barangay, if any;
- 43 (b) Prepare and keep all the minutes of all assemblies of the Katipunan ng Senior
44 Citizens and all the meetings of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens;
- 45 (c) Cause the posting, in the barangay bulletin board and at least three (3) conspicuous
46 places within the jurisdiction of the barangay, and if possible, including the use of
47 traditional and nontraditional media, and make available for any person with a
48 legal purpose, all resolutions approved by the Sangguniang Senior Citizens, the
49 annual and end-of-term reports of the programs and projects implemented by the
50 Sangguniang Senior Citizens, the Barangay Senior Citizens Development Plan and
51 Annual Barangay Senior Citizens Appropriation Act and the dissemination of the
52 same to concerned offices, institutions and individuals; and

- 1 (d) Manage and respond to Freedom of Information requests from their respective
2 constituents;
3 (e) Perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as the Sangguniang
4 Senior Citizens Chairperson may prescribe or direct.

5 SEC. 15. *Sangguniang Senior Citizens Treasurer.* - The Sangguniang Senior Citizens
6 treasurer shall:

- 7 (a) Take custody of all Sangguniang Senior Citizens property and funds;
8 (b) Collect and receive contributions, monies, materials, and all other resources
9 intended for the Sangguniang Senior Citizens and the Katipunan ng Senior
10 Citizens;
11 (c) Serve as cosignatory in all withdrawals from the Sangguniang Senior Citizens
12 funds and disburse funds in accordance with the approved annual budget and
13 supplemental budget, as the case may be, of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens;
14 (d) Certify to the availability of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens funds whenever
15 necessary;
16 (e) Submit to the Sangguniang Senior Citizens and the Sangguniang Barangay
17 certified and detailed statements of actual income and expenditures at the end of
18 every quarter and the posting of the same in the barangay bulletin board and at
19 least three (3) conspicuous places within the jurisdiction of the barangay, its
20 website, and its social media pages, and if possible including the use of other
21 traditional and nontraditional media;
22 (f) Render reports during the regular Katipunan ng Senior Citizens assembly on the
23 financial status of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens; and
24 (g) Perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as the Sangguniang
25 Senior Citizens Chairperson may prescribe or direct.

26 SEC. 16. *Privileges of Sangguniang Senior Citizens Officials.* - All Sangguniang Senior
27 Citizens officials in good standing, whether elected or appointed, shall, during their
28 incumbency:

- 29 1. Be entitled to receive actual traveling reimbursements as may be authorized by
30 law, and subject to the availability of funds: *Provided, That*, such travel is directly
31 related to the performance of their functions as Sangguniang Senior Citizens
32 officials and is supported by a duly approved travel order by the Punong Barangay
33 in the case of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens chairperson, or by the Sangguniang
34 Senior Citizens Chairperson in the case of the other Sangguniang Senior Citizens
35 officials.
36 2. The Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson shall have the same privileges
37 enjoyed by other Sangguniang Barangay officials under this Act, subject to such
38 requirements and limitations provided herein.

39 SEC. 17. *Persons in Authority.* - For purposes of the Revised Penal Code, the
40 Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson and members in each barangay shall be deemed as
41 persons in authority in their jurisdictions.

42 SEC. 18. *Suspension and Removal from Office.* - Any elected official of the
43 Sangguniang Senior Citizens may, after due process, be suspended for not more than six (6)
44 months or removed from office by a majority vote of all members of the Sangguniang Bayan
45 or Sangguniang Panlungsod, which has jurisdiction in the barangay of the concerned
46 Sangguniang Senior Citizens official or by a majority vote of all members of the Katipunan ng
47 Senior Citizens in the barangay of the concerned Sangguniang Senior Citizens official, the said
48 decision shall be final and executory, on any of the following grounds:

- 49 (a) Absence from the regular meeting of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens without
50 valid cause for two (2) consecutive times or accumulated absences of four (4)
51 within a period of twelve (12) months;
52 (b) Failure to convene the regular assembly of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens for

- 1 two (2) consecutive times;
- 2 (c) Failure to convene the regular Sangguniang Senior Citizens meetings for three (3)
- 3 consecutive months in the case of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson;
- 4 (d) Failure to formulate the Barangay Senior Citizens Development Plan and the
- 5 Annual Barangay Senior Citizens Appropriation Act, or approve the annual
- 6 budget within the prescribed period without justifiable reason;
- 7 (e) Failure to implement programs and projects outlined in the Annual Barangay
- 8 Senior Citizens Appropriation Act without justifiable reason;
- 9 (f) Four (4) consecutive absences during the regular Sangguniang Barangay sessions
- 10 without valid cause in the case of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson;
- 11 (g) Conviction by final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude; and violation
- 12 of existing laws against graft and corruption and other civil service laws, rules, and
- 13 regulations; and
- 14 (h) Failure in the discharge of his or her duty or has committed an abuse of authority.

15 **SEC. 19. *Succession and Filling up of Vacancies.* -**

- 16 (a) In case a Sangguniang Senior Citizens chairperson refuses to assume office, fails to
- 17 qualify, voluntarily resigns, dies, is permanently incapacitated, is removed from
- 18 office, the Sangguniang Senior Citizens member who obtained the highest number
- 19 of votes in the election immediately preceding shall assume the office of the
- 20 Chairperson for the unexpired portion of his or her term. In case said member
- 21 refuses to assume the position or fails to qualify, the Sangguniang Senior Citizens
- 22 member obtaining the next highest number of votes shall assume the position of
- 23 the chairperson for the unexpired portion of the term.
- 24 (b) After the vacancy shall have been filled, the Sangguniang Senior Citizens
- 25 Chairperson shall, within thirty (30) days, call for a special Katipunan ng Senior
- 26 Citizens assembly to elect a Sangguniang Senior Citizens member to complete the
- 27 membership of said sanggunian: *Provided, That, such special assembly is*
- 28 *coordinated with the Office of the Local Government Operations Officer and the*
- 29 *COMELEC of the municipality or city where the concerned barangay belongs.*
- 30 *Such Sangguniang Senior Citizens member shall hold office for the unexpired*
- 31 *portion of the term of the vacant seat. For this purpose, any citizen of the*
- 32 *Philippines residing in the said barangay for at least six (6) months who attains the*
- 33 *age of at least sixty (60) years old at the time of the special election and who*
- 34 *registers as a member of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens before the Sangguniang*
- 35 *Senior Citizens Secretary shall be entitled to vote in the said special election.*
- 36 (c) All other vacancies in the office of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens shall be filled
- 37 in accordance with the immediately preceding provision.
- 38 (d) In case of suspension of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens chairperson, the
- 39 successor, as determined in subsection (a) of this section, shall assume the position
- 40 during the period of such suspension.

41 **SEC. 20. *Sangguniang Senior Citizens Funds.* -** The Sangguniang Senior Citizens funds

42 shall be governed by the following provisions:

- 43 (a) All the income of the barangay derived from whatever source shall accrue to its
- 44 general fund and shall, at the option of the barangay concerned, be kept as a trust fund
- 45 in the custody of the city or municipal treasurer or be deposited in a bank, preferably
- 46 a government-owned bank, situated in or nearest to its area of jurisdiction. Such funds
- 47 shall be disbursed in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Ten percent (10%) of
- 48 the general fund of the barangay shall be set aside for the Sangguniang Senior Citizens.
- 49 The Sangguniang Barangay shall appropriate the Sangguniang Senior Citizens' funds
- 50 in a lump-sum, which shall be disbursed exclusively for Senior Citizens development
- 51 and empowerment purposes;
- 52 (b) The Sangguniang Senior Citizens shall have financial independence in its operations,

- 1 disbursements, and encashment of their fund, income, and expenditures. As such, the
2 Sangguniang Senior Citizens funds shall be deposited in the name of the Sangguniang
3 Senior Citizens of the concerned barangay in a government-owned bank situated in or
4 nearest to its area of jurisdiction, with the Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairperson
5 and the Sangguniang Senior Citizens Treasurer as the official signatories;
- 6 (c) All Sangguniang Senior Citizens funds shall be allocated in an annual budget, and if
7 the funds allow, in a supplemental budget in accordance with the adopted Annual
8 Barangay Senior Citizens Appropriation Act. Both the Barangay Senior Citizens
9 Development Plan and Annual Barangay Senior Citizens Appropriation Act shall give
10 priority to programs, projects, and activities that will promote and ensure equitable
11 access to quality training, environmental protection, climate change adaptation,
12 disaster risk reduction and resiliency, Senior Citizens employment and livelihood,
13 health and anti-drug abuse, gender sensitivity, sports development, and capability
14 building which emphasizes leadership training; and
- 15 (d) The Sangguniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlungsod shall, within sixty (60) days
16 upon receipt hereof, review the annual and supplemental budget of the Sangguniang
17 Senior Citizens on their compliance with the immediately preceding provision and
18 other existing laws, rules, and regulations. Noncompliance shall render said budgets
19 inoperative either in whole or in part. Failure on the part of the Sanggunian to
20 complete the review within the prescribed period shall render the said annual budget
21 deemed approved. If the annual and supplemental budget of the Sangguniang Senior
22 Citizens is denied by the Sangguniang Bayan or Sangguniang Panlungsod, the
23 Sangguniang Senior Citizens can override the denial provided the vote of the majority
24 of all members of the Katipunan ng Barangay in their respective jurisdictions.
- 25 (e) All Sangguniang Senior Citizens funds derived from any source shall be stated in its
26 financial records, which the Sangguniang Senior Citizens treasurer shall keep, be made
27 publicly available, and a copy furnished to the Sangguniang Barangay, in a simplified
28 manner as may be prescribed by the Commission on Audit (COA). All Sangguniang
29 Senior Citizens funds shall be subject to all existing accounting and auditing laws,
30 rules and regulations.

31 **SEC. 21. *Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Senior Citizens.* -**

- 32 (a) There shall be an organization of the Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Senior Citizens
33 to be known as follows:
- 34 1. In municipalities, Pambayang Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Senior Citizens,
35 which shall be composed of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens chairpersons of
36 barangays in the municipality;
 - 37 2. In cities, the Panlungsod na Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Senior Citizens
38 which shall be composed of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens Chairpersons of
39 barangays in the city; and
 - 40 3. In provinces, Panlalawigang Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Senior Citizens
41 which shall be composed of the convenors of the Pambayan and Panlungsod na
42 Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Senior Citizens.
- 43 (b) The Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Senior Citizens shall, at all levels, elect from
44 among themselves a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and such
45 other officers as they may deem necessary. The concerned Local Government
46 Operations Officer, in coordination with the election officer, shall facilitate the conduct
47 of the elections which shall be held within fifteen (15) days from the Sangguniang
48 Senior Citizens elections in case of the Pambayan and Panlungsod na Pederasyon, and
49 within thirty (30) days in case of the Panlalawigang Pederasyon.
- 50 (c) The manner of election, suspension, and removal of the officers of the Pederasyon at
51 all levels and the term of office of the other officers of the Pederasyon shall be governed
52 by the guidelines to be jointly issued by the DILG, the COMELEC, and the

Commission within sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 22. *Membership in the Sanggunian and Local Special Bodies.* –

- (a) The duly elected president of the Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Senior Citizens, at all levels, shall serve as ex officio member of the Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlungsod and Sangguniang Panlalawigan, respectively;
- (b) He or she shall be the chairperson of the Committee on Senior Citizens and Sports Development in the said Sanggunian, and a regular member of the Committees on Education, Environment, Employment and Livelihood, Health and Anti-Drug Abuse, and Gender and Development,
- (c) He or she shall convene the LSCDC every three (3) months to conduct consultations with Senior Citizens organizations.

CHAPTER III

THE LOCAL SENIOR CITIZENS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (LSCDC)

SEC. 23. *Creation of the Local Senior Citizens Development Council.* – To ensure wide and multi-sectoral Senior Citizens participation in local governance, there shall be in every province, city, and municipality a Local Senior Citizens Development Council (LSCDC) which shall be called the Provincial Senior Citizens Development Council, City Senior Citizens Development Council, and Municipal Senior Citizens Development Council, respectively. The LSCDC shall be composed of representatives from Senior Citizens and Senior Citizens-serving organizations at the provincial, city, and municipal levels. The LSCDC shall assist in the planning and execution of projects and programs of the Sangguniang Senior Citizens and the Pederasyons at all levels.

SEC. 24. Local Senior Citizens Development Council Funds. – The LSCDC shall be funded by their respective Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlungsod and Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

CHAPTER IV

THE LOCAL OFFICE OF SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS

SEC. 25. *Creation of the Local Office of Senior Citizens Affairs.* – There shall be in every province, city, and municipality an Office of Senior Citizens Affairs, which shall be headed by an Office of Senior Citizens Head with the rank and salary grade of at least a Division Chief. Such will be under the Office of the Local Chief Executive. It shall be a separate department with divisions and units for policy and planning, administration and finance, and programs and operations.

SEC. 26. *Funding.* – The local government unit shall incorporate in its annual budget such amount as may be necessary for the operation and effective functioning of the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs.

CHAPTER V

**CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND ORIENTATION TOWARDS NATION-BUILDING
AND EMPOWERMENT**

SEC. 27. *Mandatory and Continuing Training Programs.* – For the purpose of emphasizing the role of the Senior Citizens in nation-building and molding them to become better citizens with the values of patriotism, nationalism, and honor as a Filipino, any Sangguniang Senior Citizens official, whether elected or appointed, or any member of the LSCDC must undergo the mandatory training programs before he or she can assume office. During their incumbency, they must attend the continuing training programs to be

undertaken by the Commission in coordination with the DILG. Deliberate failure to attend the said training programs shall constitute sufficient ground to disqualify said Sangguniang Senior Citizens official or LSCDC member or subject them to disciplinary actions.

SEC. 28. *Components of the Mandatory Training Programs.* – The Commission and the DILG with the assistance of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), the Local Government Academy (LGA), the University of the Philippines-National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP-NCPAG), the Commission, and in consultation with Senior Citizens stakeholders shall jointly design and implement the mandatory and continuing training programs. The mandatory training programs must include among others, the following components: (1) The Philippine cultural history, political systems ethics, and ideologies; (2) The Filipino as a nation builder (3) The Filipino Senior Citizens and its role in nation-building; and (4) capability building on leadership, program and project development and sustainability, financial management, and accountability and transparency.

SEC. 29. *Training Fund.* – A training fund with an initial amount of fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) is hereby established and appropriated from any available source to be managed by the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Unit of Local Authorities of the Philippines. Thereafter, such amount needed for this purpose shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

CHAPTER VI LINGGO NG SENIOR CITIZENS

SEC. 30. *Observance of Linggo ng Katandaang Pilipino or the Senior Citizens Week.*

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- (a) Every barangay, municipality, city, and province shall conduct an annual activity on the Senior Citizens Week under Proclamation Blg. 475, Series 1975, in the first week of October every year. The Sangguniang Senior Citizens, in the case of barangay, and the respective LSCDC in cooperation with the Pederason ng mga Sangguniang Senior Citizens, in the case of municipality, city, and province, shall take the lead in this observance.

CHAPTER VII REGISTRATION, ELECTION, AND ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE

SEC. 31. *Registration.* – For purposes of the next regular Sangguniang Senior Citizens election under this Act, the COMELEC shall set a special registration of the Katipunan ng Senior Citizens which shall in no case be less than one (1) month and shall include Saturdays and Sundays.

SEC. 32. *Date of Election.* – The Sangguniang Senior Citizens elections shall be synchronized with the barangay elections and subsequently every three (3) years thereafter.

CHAPTER VIII FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 33. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 34. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – The Commission, the DILG, the COMELEC, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the COA, and the Special Committee on Senior Citizens of the House of Representatives and the Senate, in consultation with the local government leagues, and various Senior Citizens organizations and Senior Citizens-serving organizations shall be tasked to come up, within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act, with the IRR needed for

1 the implementation of this Act.

2 SEC. 35. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason or reasons, any part or provision of
3 this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions not affected
4 thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

5 SEC. 36. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders
6 letters of instruction, rules, and regulations or portions thereof which are inconsistent with
7 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8 SEC. 37. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the
9 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or any two (2) newspapers of general
10 circulation.

11 *Approved,*