

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2024



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MILAGROS AQUINO – MAGSAYSAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to revive and re-activate, and more importantly, institutionalize the Inter-Generational Program for senior citizens or older persons, and children, which proved to be an effective social, physical and psychological development intervention in the communities.

Retirement from professional life and grown-up children leaving home often results in decreased human contact and socialization for elderly people. This often leads to isolation, feelings of loneliness and depression. Meanwhile, young children were found to benefit more from varied human interactions and speeds up their learning processes. Intergenerational programming lowers issues of social isolation and loneliness by allowing different generations to come together, learn from one another and form new friendships. The relationships formed between generations also improves communities by combating negative stereotypes and ageism.

An intergenerational program (IGP) is a form of human service that involves ongoing and organized interactions between members of younger and older age groups for the benefit of all participants (Newman et al. 1997). Intergenerational programs, which have been in existence for 40 years in several countries, engage volunteers of different ages in a variety of activities. They generally arise from practical concerns about strengthening social cohesion, creating links between generations, and setting up and encouraging community initiatives. The aim of intergenerational programs is to increase contact and understanding, to create meaningful relationships, to foster emotional and social growth, and to achieve various educational or community goals (Kaplan 2002; Ayala et al. 2007; Newman and Hatton-Yeo 2008).

Meanwhile, Republic Act (RA) No. 6972 enacted in 1990, is known as the Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection of Children Act. It sought to establish Day Care Centers in every barangay to provide comprehensive care and protection for Filipino children up to six years old, including monitoring of birth registration, immunization, and support for abused children, with funding from various sources. In 2000, RA 8980 was passed, providing for a comprehensive national policy for the implementation of Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and institutionalized the ECCD system which addresses the threats on children's health, nutrition, education and psychosocial stimulation. This was subsequently amended by RA 10410 or the Early

Years Act of 2013 which aims to promote the rights and educational development of children aged zero to eight, ensuring their survival, special protection, and inclusion.

On the other hand, RA 7876 was enacted in 1995 and is known as the Senior Citizens Center Act of the Philippines. It mandated the establishment of a Senior Citizen's Center in all cities and municipalities to serve as a venue for educational, recreational, social and health programs and activities for senior citizens. The purpose of the law is to provide adequate social services and improve the quality of life for all citizens, with a focus on the elderly.

With the above-mentioned facilities, the Inter-generational program is ideal to be implemented to maximize these available resources and promote the welfare of these two important sectors.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.


MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY

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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE INTER-GENERATIONAL PROGRAM FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS AND CHILDREN AS A MULTI-SECTORAL SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT INTERVENTION**

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 “*Inter-Generational Program Law of 2025*”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It shall be the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare and interest of Filipino senior citizens, and ensure a decent and dignified standard of living and quality of life by providing accessible programs and affordable services.

Under the 1987 Constitution, Article XIII, Section 11, the State is mandated to “*adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.*”

SECTION 3. Intergenerational Program – This program addresses critical problems of ageing while allowing transfer of culture across generations. This also promote productive and active lifestyles for older persons and help them share their knowledge and skills to the younger generation in an integrated and intergenerational environment.

The Inter-generational program responds to the physical, social and psychological needs of older persons while addressing the generation gap between the young and old. Services of the program include the following:

- a. Day Care Service for Children
- b. Child Minding Service
- c. Day Care Service for Special Children
- d. Day Services for Older Persons

- e. Volunteer Development Services

SECTION 4. Objectives - The Intergenerational Program seeks to:

- a) Increase community awareness on issues of both the young and old claimholders and on social problems relative to the transfer of culture across generations.
- b) Provide intergenerational services through structured activities that will bring harmony to claimholders, such as early stimulation, acquisition of basic skills, inculcation of values and socialization for children.
- c) Develop appreciation of the rich Filipino cultural heritage and history.
- d) Promote understanding of shared values and respect for individuals in all stages in life.
- e) Provide opportunities for older persons and other claimholders to participate in the economic and social educations and spiritual development activities in the communities or in the center.
- f) Provide psychosocial intervention to senior citizens, children and other members of their families.

SECTION 5. Coverage and Target Beneficiaries – The Intergenerational Program aims to reach out to: children whose chronological ages are 6 months to 6 years old, the youth, their parents, and those 60 years old above.

The intergenerational program has nationwide coverage and may be implemented in any municipality / city where there is a Senior Citizens Day Center (SCDC) and Day Care Center (DCC) which is a community facility conducive for intergenerational interaction.

SECTION 6. Program Activities and Services – Similar mental and psychological stimulation such as music, games and simple play, physical activities such as dance, exercise or sports, as well as learning and educational engagements of puzzles, arts and crafts storytelling, may be conducted for both elderly and young kids.

SECTION 7. Components - The Inter-generational Program shall have the following program components for its effective implementation:

- a) **Social Preparation** – shall consist of a series of consultation meetings with Local Government Executives and Key Program Partners resulting to Memorandum of Understanding with detailed commitment and support of concerned parties.
- b) **Development and Mobilization of Volunteers** – Will provide opportunities for volunteers to share their time and talents through involvement to center's activities.
- c) **Capacity-Building** - Provision of continuing training activities to implementers and clients to equip them with appropriate knowledge, attitudes and skills in the implementation of the intergenerational program.
- d) **Delivery of Services** - Provision of different services to promote the intergenerational concept to target sectors
- e) **Monitoring** – Will track the activities and corresponding results based on the approved plan and budget.
- f) **Evaluation** – shall assess the worth, relevance and effectiveness of the project as well as the contributing factors to their success / failure

- g) Documentation** - Good practices will be recorded for purposes of replication and policy enhancement

SECTION 8. Appropriation - The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current year's appropriations of the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) and the respective budgets of concerned local government units (LGUs). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations- Within ninety (90) days or three (3) months from the approval of this Act, the National Commission on Senior Citizens (NCSC), in coordination with other relevant implementing agencies like the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Department of Health (DOH), and concerned stakeholders, shall formulate and promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved