

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2273**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PM VARGAS

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NURSING HOME FOR HOMELESS AND
ABANDONED SENIOR CITIZENS IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY IN THE
PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State provides that the family has the duty to care for its elderly members, but the State may also do so through just programs of social security (Article XV Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution).

It is estimated that 90% of the 7 million senior citizens in the Philippines are not given sufficient care. This number doubled in 2020 from 8 to 16%.¹ Many Filipino elderly do not have the financial means necessary to sustain an adequate quality of life, mainly because they are not able to save for retirement while caring for their young dependents.²

Although the State has institutionalized prioritization of the elderlies, in the form of programs such as social pension, and home care services under the Department of Social Welfare and Development, these efforts do not adequately address the cases of homeless and abandoned senior citizens.

Currently, most shelter facilities are founded by private organizations or religious sectors and are usually situated in only a few and limited key cities and municipalities.

¹ Business Mirror. 2022. <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/07/26/nursing-homes-in-the-philippines/> Accessed online on August 16, 2022

² Philippine Statistics Authority. 2018

This bill seeks to pursue elderly care by providing nursing homes for homeless elderly Filipino who have been either neglected or abandoned by their families. Further it seeks to ensure that access to decent, warm, and quality homes for the geriatrics is made available across the country by the creation of the facilities in every municipality and city of the country.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'PM. VARGAS', is positioned above the printed name.

REP PM. VARGAS
Fifth District, Quezon City

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*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 "Homes for Abandoned Seniors Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person, guarantee full respect for human rights, extend assistance to its elderly citizens through programs of social security, and promote the right to health and safety of senior citizens. Towards this end, the State shall extend assistance to abandoned and homeless senior citizens through a social care and security program.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Abandoned Senior Citizen refers to a senior citizen who has been deserted, permanently or temporarily, by his relatives or persons who have general or legal responsibility over the senior citizen, and/or from whom all basic care have been withdrawn, whether willfully or not;
- b. Homeless Senior Citizen refers to a senior who lacks a fixed, regular residence, or whose current residence is unfit for human habitation, or lacks resources to obtain proper housing;

- c. Nursing Home refers to a home for the aged, established and maintained under this Act by a city or municipality which provides living accommodations, food and clothing, medical and health care, and recreational and social interaction activities for abandoned senior citizens or homeless senior citizens;
- d. Senior Citizen refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years of age.

SECTION 4. Establishment of Nursing Homes. - There shall be established in every municipality and city, a nursing home to serve abandoned senior citizens and homeless senior citizens, to be built by the local government units (LCDs) concerned and shall be operated and maintained by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with the LGUs concerned.

SECTION 5. Functions of Nursing Homes. - The nursing homes shall provide homeless senior citizens or abandoned senior citizens within its territorial jurisdiction institutionalized residential care programs and services such as but not limited to:

- a. Comfortable living quarters;
- b. Adequate food and clothing;
- c. Medical consultation or treatment;
- d. Health care;
- e. Occupational opportunities;
- f. Recreational and social interaction activities;
- g. Counseling;
- h. Case conference;
- i. Family dialogue;
- j. Outreach to existing family for reintegration;
- k. Literacy education;
- l. Productivity development
- m. Religious, cultural and vocational activities.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DSWD, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Health and the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations of the Philippines, and Confederation of Older Persons Associations of the Philippines, shall hereby

promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions this Act not later than ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

SECTION 7. Exemptions of the Nursing Home. - The established nursing home shall be exempted from the payment of customs duties, taxes, and tariffs on the importation of equipment and supplies used actually, directly, and exclusively by the nursing home pursuant to this Act, including those donated to the Nursing Home.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national papers of general circulation.

Approved,