

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4036



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING LONG-TERM CARE FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

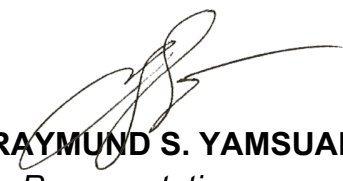
Regard, respect, and care for our elders are deeply embedded in our culture. This is reflected in our very own Constitution, which states that it is the duty of the family to take care of the elderly while the State may design just programs of social security.

However, many senior citizens face heightened risk of poverty and a significant number have to rely on pensions, gifts, or some allowances given by relatives to make ends meet. Some are even doing odd jobs to give additional financial support to other family members.

In the 2nd District of Parañaque, we strive to provide comprehensive services to senior citizens. Not only do we provide medical assistance and mobility assistive devices, but we also endeavor to include senior citizens in the various livelihood programs of the district, such as *Bigay Negosyo* and *Dagdag Puhunan Para sa Kabuhayan*. With these efforts, we aim to recognize the invaluable contributions of senior citizens to the country. With this measure, we aim to extend the same services to senior citizens nationwide.

The passage of this measure ensures the implementation of long-term care programs for senior citizens. These programs shall endeavor to make essential goods, social welfare, livelihood generation opportunities, social insurance, continued education, and programs for the advancement of health and well-being accessible to all senior citizens.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Long-Term Care for Senior Citizens Act.”

SECTION. 2. Declaration of Policy. — The State recognizes the invaluable contribution of senior citizens to the national development program. Accordingly, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide adequate and effective social services to all members of society, especially senior citizens so they may live prosperously and enjoy the fruits of their labor. For this purpose, the State undertakes to establish and initiate programs as well as to support endeavors aimed at promoting and advancing the social and economic well-being of senior citizens.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be construed to mean as follows:

- a. Senior citizen refers to any person as defined in Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7876, otherwise known as the Senior Citizens Center Act of the Philippines.
- b. Long-term care refers to a sustained provision of comprehensive programs and services to senior citizens with the view of enabling them to have dignified, healthy and secured lives.

- c. Dependent senior citizens refer to those persons who are either frail, sickly, or suffering from any disability, and have no other means to support his/her basic needs.

SECTION 4. National Long-Term Care Program Framework. – A national long-term care program for senior citizens is hereby established which shall embody the following core programs and/or services, among others:

a. **Social Protection.** This shall cover programs that seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability among senior citizens, enhance their social status and rights, protect them from hazards and sudden loss of income, and improve their capacity to manage risks.

a.1. **Social Welfare.** Curative and preventive interventions that seek to support the special needs of senior citizens and to reduce risks associated with old age shall be provided. These shall include activities aimed at protecting senior citizens from abuse, exploitation, and discrimination. Moreover, prevention and provision of support services against physical, emotional, and financial abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect, and abandonment of senior citizens shall be established within the family and at the community level. Towards this end, training and public awareness programs shall be undertaken to inform the public about issues confronting senior citizens and to equip them with the necessary know-how to prevent and detect problem areas concerning senior citizens.

a.2. **Livelihood/Job Generation Program.** Senior citizens shall be specifically targeted in livelihood programs and other poverty alleviation programs. Further, livelihood programs shall guarantee a minimum income and shall be designed in a manner that increases senior citizens' productivity.

a.3. **Social Insurance.** Existing social insurance programs shall be modified and expanded to guarantee that senior citizens shall be adequately protected from loss of income and unemployment as a result of old age. Economic and financial support through other innovative social insurance and pension schemes especially designated for families caring for dependents/disabled senior citizens shall likewise be endeavored.

a.4. **Social Safety Nets.** The stop-gap mechanism or urgent and immediate responses shall be instituted to shield senior citizens from vulnerabilities arising from disasters, emergencies, and displacement due to development projects, and natural and man-made calamities.

b. **Continued Education and Engagement.** This shall include mainstreaming activities such as lifelong education programs for aging preparation and non-formal education at the local level for those sixty (60) years old and above and the development of programs that will allow senior citizens to remain actively engaged in as many social, economic and community activities as possible.

c. **Advancing Health and Well-being.** Integrated and innovative elderly-focused health and social services be made available at the local level. Particular emphasis shall be made on disease prevention, health promotion, and wellness of mind, body, and spirit. Health services shall comprise of preventive, curative, and rehabilitative health care services in all government and private hospitals, local health facilities, and other community-based facilities. The said program shall contemplate the following among others:

c.1. Homecare and hospice for the frail and dependent elderly and medical and psychological support for patients requiring continued medical assistance after discharge.

c.2. Development and provisions of geriatric training at the family and community level.

c.3. Mandatory Philippine Health Insurance Corporation coverage for non-contributory senior citizens, especially the poor.

d. **Enabling and Supportive Environment.** Provisions of home nursing for the elderly, facilities for respite care, programs on counseling, professional guidance, and emotional support, and community-based activities integrated into existing community health programs as well as strengthening of inter-generational relationships.

Nothing in the above shall prevent the agencies tasked to implement the provisions of this Act from introducing other social services and programs designed to promote the national long-term care program for senior citizens.

SECTION 5. Implementing Agencies. – The National Long-Term Care Program for Senior Citizens shall be implemented jointly by the National Commission of Senior Citizens, the Department of Finance, Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and local government units. The National Inter-Agency Monitoring Board created under Republic Act No. 9257 otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens act shall take the lead in monitoring the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter the local government units shall undertake the maintenance of the institutions established under this Act.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, after due consultations with the other implementing agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations necessary for the orderly implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, superseded, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,