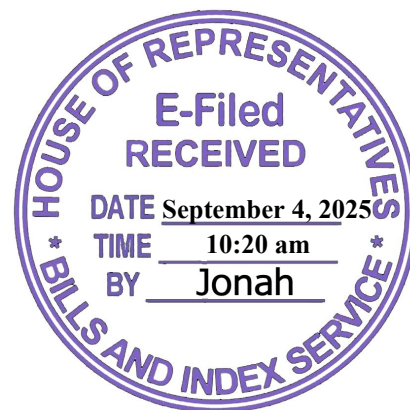


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill Number 4323



Introduced by **REP. JANE T. CASTRO**

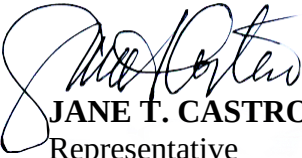
EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to data from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Php1.7 billion pesos was provided in burial assistance to 165,907 clients under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations for the period of January to September 2024. These grieving families were unable to afford the cost of funeral and burial services for their departed loved ones.

Generally, funeral and burial services are expensive, inclusions for the service usually include caskets, embalming services, transportation of cadaver (if needed), and handling of paper works among others.

This bill aims to provide an affordable funeral services for our indigents, and less privileged citizens. While not free, the bill would generally make funeral and burial services affordable to all thus ensuring that our grieving families would not incur debt.

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


JANE T. CASTRO
Representative
2nd District of Capiz

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill Number **4323**

Introduced by **REP. JANE T. CASTRO**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AFFORDABLE FUNERAL SERVICES TO INDIGENTS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as “Affordable Funeral Service Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. As part of fulfilling this, the State shall ensure that affordable funeral services are made available to grief-stricken families, especially those classified as indigent and extremely poor.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms as used in this Act shall mean the following:

- (a) *Funeral Services* refers to a package of goods and services offered by a funeral establishment comprised of basic embalming/mortuary services, transport of cadaver, and provision of casket or coffin to hold the deceased, venue and/or furniture or equipment for hosting of a wake, funeral hearse, transport towards burial grounds or cremation;

- (b) *Indigent Family* refers to a family whose monthly income is equivalent to the minimum wage set in the region where they reside;
- (c) *Extremely Poor Family* refers to a family whose monthly income is less than the minimum wage set in the region where they reside;
- (d) *Implementing Agencies* refer to the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Trade and Industry; and
- (e) *Funeral Establishment* includes funeral parlors, funeral chapels and any similar place used in the preparation, storage and care of the body of a deceased person for burial or cremation.

SEC. 4. *Availability of Affordable Funeral Services in All Funeral Establishments.* – All funeral establishments shall at all times make available for indigents funeral services with a price of not more than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00). Moreover, the aforementioned funeral service package can be unbundled into its individual component services with the sum total of the components not to exceed Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) to give the indigent family leeway to choose the specific service or component they want to avail of. In the event that a specific service is not available, the funeral establishment shall be obliged to offer said service of any higher value but the price to be paid shall still be the price as pegged for indigents.

SEC. 5. *Availment of Affordable Funeral Services.* – The deceased indigent's family must present a certificate of indigency and a case study verifying their indigent status from either the medical social service of a hospital, the local social welfare office or the DSWD to the funeral establishment in order to avail of the affordable funeral service package.

SEC. 6. *Penalties.* – Any violation of this Act shall be penalized with a fine not exceeding Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) and a suspension of license to operate for a period not exceeding six (6) months.

Repetitive violations after the lifting of the suspension of its license to operate shall be penalized with a fine not exceeding Four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00) and a revocation of such license to operate.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Agencies.* – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall monitor and regulate the current market prices for funeral services. The DTI shall likewise provide the implementing rules and regulations ninety (90) days after the passage of this Act. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) may extend funeral or burial or financial assistance, where applicable, to qualified applicants through its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Program. Furthermore, the DSWD shall strengthen its partnership with funeral establishments consistent with the AICS program to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the departments and agencies concerned. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared void or unconstitutional, the remaining portions or provisions hereof shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of law or regulation inconsistent herewith is hereby repealed, revoked, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,