



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4443



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE GERALD CLOYD ALEXIS V. GALANG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." Further, Section 11 of Article XIII provides that "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development. Acknowledging the physical disadvantages of the underprivileged elderly, including the underprivileged sick, disabled, women, and children, their needs for health development is said to be a priority.

Data from the 2020 Census of Population and Housing indicates that senior citizens aged 60 and over constitute 8.5% (9.22 million) of the Filipino household population. The Commission on Population and Development, citing Philippine Statistics Authority data, confirms a consistent upward trend in the proportion of elderly Filipinos.

Although legislative measures such as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 and the Act Increasing the Social Pension of Indigent Senior Citizens have enhanced financial benefits and privileges, a significant portion of these funds is inevitably allocated to purchasing maintenance medicines, highlighting a gap in support.

Biological aging involves complex physiological changes leading to health decline. During this stage, nutrition becomes critically important, requiring special attention. Adequate nutrition is vital across all life stages but is especially crucial for the elderly, providing essential energy and nutrients to prevent or manage chronic diseases. Regrettably, the government's provision of comprehensive nutritional support for this demographic has been insufficient.

To address this deficiency, this measure is introduced: establishing a comprehensive nutrition program for senior citizens and fortifying the existing Philippine nutritional framework. This action is taken in fulfillment of the State's constitutional duty to prioritize the health of the nation's expanding elderly population.

It is for this purpose that the urgent passage of this measure is sought.


GERALD GALANG

2nd Legislative District, City of Valenzuela



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4443

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE GERALD CLOYD ALEXIS V. GALANG**

AN ACT

STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED “AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

SECTION 1. Section 5 (c) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is further amended as follows:

SEC. 5. Government Assistance. — The government shall provide the following:

- a) xxx
- b) xxx
- c) Health

“The DOH, in coordination with local government units (LGUs), NGOs and POs for senior citizens, shall institute a national health program and shall provide and POs for senior citizens, shall institute a national health program and shall provide an integrated health service for senior citizens. It shall train community-based health workers among senior citizens and health personnel to specialize in geriatric care and health problems of senior citizens.

“The national health program for senior citizens **THAT INCLUDES A COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM** shall, among others, be harmonized with the National Prevention of Blindness Program of the DOH.

“Throughout the country, there shall be established a “*senior citizens’ ward*” in every government hospital. This geriatric ward is for the exclusive use of senior citizens who require hospital confinement due to their health conditions. However, when the urgency of public necessity or emergency purposes so require, such

geriatric ward may be used for emergency purposes, after which, such a “*senior citizens’ ward*” shall be reverted to its nature as a geriatric ward.

“THE NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DOH AND LGUs PREPARE THE COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM FOR DISSEMINATION TO SENIOR CITIZENS TO SERVE AS A GUIDE FOR THEIR HEALTHY LIVING.

“THE LGUs SHALL, THROUGH THE LOCAL HEALTH PERSONNEL, REGULARLY VISIT EVERY SENIOR CITIZEN WITHIN THEIR JURISDICTION AS A PLATFORM FOR PRIMARY CARE AND TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES AS WELL AS FOLLOW THROUGH ON COMPLIANCE TO A HEALTHY DIET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM APPROPRIATE TO THEIR HEALTH CONDITIONS.

“LIKEWISE, THE LGUs SHALL, THROUGH THE OFFICE FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS (OSCA), INTEGRATE THE COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM IN THEIR RESPECTIVE PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. THE OSCA SHALL SUBMIT A MONTHLY REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE NUTRITION AND WELLNESS PROGRAM TO THE DOH.”

SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government shall, in consultation with the National Nutrition Council and the Secretary of Health, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules or regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,