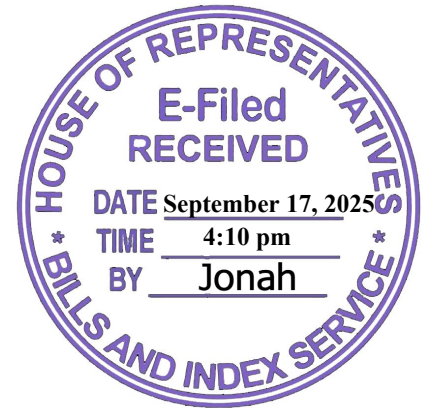


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **4656**



Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP AND EDVIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to advance the State's duty to uphold the dignity of every person, including those behind bars, by way of the Medical Parole Act of 2025. It recognizes that while incarceration serves the purpose of justice, there must also be compassion for elderly persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) who suffer from terminal illnesses and/or severe medical conditions. The government bears the responsibility to ensure that these individuals are treated humanely and with respect, even as they serve their sentences. This bill is grounded on the principle that mercy and justice can and must coexist within our legal system.

The filing of this bill stems from a growing concern about the deteriorating conditions of many elderly PDLs, particularly those with life-threatening illnesses. Keeping these individuals incarcerated, despite their serious health conditions and limited mobility, serves little purpose to society while also posing significant burdens on correctional facilities. These facilities are often ill-equipped to provide specialized medical care for terminal illnesses, making prolonged incarceration both impractical and inhumane. Furthermore, the financial cost of providing extensive medical treatment inside prisons continues to rise, which strains government resources that could be better allocated to programs for rehabilitation and public safety, among others.

One example that highlights the urgency of this measure is the case of a 76-year-old PDL who was serving time at the New Bilibid Prison and had been suffering from stage four cancer. In 2022, reports surfaced about his worsening condition as he lay bedridden, barely able to move, with prison authorities unable to provide adequate palliative care. According to the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), many similar cases exist, with elderly inmates languishing in poor health, often neglected due to limited facilities and manpower (Commission on Human Rights, 2022). These real-life examples emphasize the need for a clear and compassionate system to allow medical parole for qualified elderly PDLs.

This proposed measure establishes clear guidelines for granting medical parole. It allows the Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) to release PDLs aged 70 and above, who

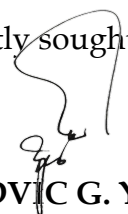
are certified by at least two independent medical professionals to have terminal or severe medical conditions, under strict terms and conditions. It includes safeguards such as medical assessments, public notices of hearings, and avenues for opposition to ensure that public safety is not compromised. It also provides that any release may be deferred if there is clear evidence that such release would endanger others or the PDL themselves. Additionally, this measure institutionalizes the role of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) in identifying eligible PDLs, ensuring that the process is systematic and fair.

The Medical Parole Act of 2025 establishes a compassionate, regulated mechanism for the conditional release of elderly and gravely ill PDLs, balancing humanitarian considerations with public safety. It ensures that parole is granted through a fair and thorough process, requiring medical certification, review by the BPP, and public transparency. Moreover, this bill upholds the government's commitment to maintain the dignity of every person, even those serving sentences, while reducing unnecessary costs on an already burdened correctional system.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP



HON. EDVIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **4656**

Introduced by Representatives ERIC G. YAP AND EDVIC G. YAP

**AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL PAROLE FOR ELDERLY PERSONS
DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM TERMINAL OR
SEVERE MEDICAL CONDITIONS, PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR ITS
IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 the “*Medical Parole Act of 2025.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold the dignity of every person and to ensure full respect for human rights, including those of persons deprived of liberty who are old or advanced in years, and terminally ill or suffering from severe medical conditions.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

a) *Medical Parole* refers to the conditional release of a person deprived of liberty who meets the criteria under this Act, due to old age and terminal and/or severe medical conditions, allowing them to serve the remainder of their sentence outside of prison under specific terms;

(b) *Person Deprived of Liberty (PDL)* refers to a person, 70 years old and above, who is confined in a correctional facility serving sentence by reason of a final judgment of conviction;

(c) *Qualified Professional* refers to a licensed physician accredited by the Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), or the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and authorized to conduct medical assessments for parole purposes;

(d) *Severe Medical Condition* refers to any physical or mental illness, disease, or impairment that substantially diminishes the PDL's capacity to function independently and requires continuous care or support; and

(e) *Terminal Illness* refers to a prognosis of having a life expectancy of one (1) year or less, due to an incurable illness, disease, or condition.

SEC. 4. *Grant of Medical Parole.* – The Board of Pardons and Parole (BPP) may, upon its own initiative or upon application as provided in this Act, grant medical parole to an elderly PDL suffering from any terminal illness or severe medical condition as certified by at least two (2) independent qualified medical professionals, one of whom shall be a government physician recognized by the DOH.

SEC. 5. *Medical Parole Application.* – Application for medical parole shall be filed by the PDLs or their authorized representatives with the BPP who shall evaluate the application within thirty (30) days from receipt of complete documentation, including the required medical certifications.

SEC. 6. *Notice and Hearing.* – Upon receipt of the application for medical parole, the BPP shall set them for hearing, notice of which shall be published on their official website and shall be posted in conspicuous places within the city or municipality where the concerned PDL is serving sentence.

SEC. 7. *Oppositions to the Application of Medical Parole.* – Any person may challenge, in writing, any application for medical parole, on the following grounds:

(a) The illness, medical condition, or incapacity of the PDL does not exist or its severity does not qualify the PDL for medical parole;

(b) The release of PDL will constitute a threat to public safety; or

(c) The PDL is likely to commit an offense while on medical parole.

SEC. 8. *Deferment of Medical Parole.* – The release of a PDL on medical parole shall be deferred until the danger ceases whenever there is a clear and convincing evidence that release on medical parole will endanger:

(a) PDL's own life and those of his or her relatives; or

(b) The life, safety and well-being of the victim, his or her relatives, witnesses and the community.

SEC. 9. *Denial of Application for Medical Parole.* – In case of denial, the officer of BPP who rendered the decision shall send a formal notice to the PDL applicant or its authorized representative, within the prescribed period under Section 5 of this Act. Any denial of application for medical parole shall be fully explained in writing, stating the grounds upon which the decision of denial is based.

The PDL or his or her authorized representative may file a Motion for Reconsideration within fifteen (15) days from receipt of decision. Should the Motion be denied, the PDL or his or her duly authorized representative may submit a re-application for medical parole with the BPP within sixty (60) days from receipt of decision denying such Motion.

SEC. 10. *Role of Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP)* . - BuCor and BJMP shall identify PDLs who are eligible for medical parole under this Act and shall regularly submit updated lists of qualified PDLs to the BPP and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to facilitate review.

SEC. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOJ, in consultation with the DOH, BPP, BuCor, BJMP, and all other relevant stakeholders shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause*. - Should any provision or part of this Act be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions and parts hereof, insofar as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause*. - All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity*. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,