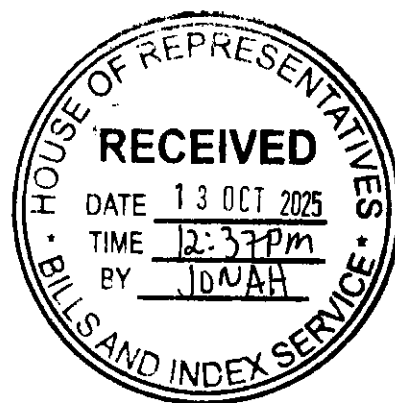


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **5483**

Introduced by Representative **FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution declares the fundamental policy of the State to recognize the sanctity of the family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. The same Constitution carves a portion of its living text in Article XV, *The Family*, to emphasize the foundation of the nation to be the family and its primordial duty to care for its elderly members.

However, the reality in many provinces particularly in Palawan reveals a glaring gap between this constitutional mandate and actual government support. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Province of Palawan recorded a population of 968,795 in 2024 (excluding Puerto Princesa City). Of this, approximately 12.5% or around 121,000 residents are aged 60 years and above, reflecting a steadily aging population amid limited infrastructure for geriatric and social care.

Despite this demographic shift, Palawan lacks a dedicated public elderly care and nursing facility. At present, senior citizens rely largely on family-based caregiving, meager pensions, or intermittent assistance from local government units. The province's wide geographical expanse, spanning island municipalities and remote highland communities exacerbates the difficulty of delivering consistent medical and social services to the elderly. In many localities, elderly persons who are chronically ill, neglected, or without family support have nowhere to go.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish the Palawan Elderly Care and Nursing Center, a provincial facility that will serve as a haven for senior citizens who are ill, neglected, or in need of temporary or permanent care. The Center shall provide medical services, social welfare programs, rehabilitation, and family counseling support. Given Palawan's growing elderly population and its geographic challenges, the establishment of an elderly care center is not merely a welfare initiative but an urgent necessity. It operationalizes the State's constitutional commitment to uphold human dignity across all ages and ensures that no Palaweno senior citizen is neglected or left behind.

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

FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI
Representative, PINOY WORKERS PARTYLIST

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **5483**

Introduced by Representative FRANZ FERNANDEZ LEGAZPI

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN ELDERLY CARE AND NURSING CENTER IN THE PROVINCE
OF PALAWAN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Palawan Elderly Care and Nursing Center Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – For purposes of this Act, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to implement necessary measures to protect and health and well-being of the elderly, by providing basic necessities, adequate nutrition and adequate and affordable healthcare.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are hereby defined as follows:

- (a) Elderly refers to a person who is sixty (60) years old and above;
- (b) Elderly Care refers to the fulfillment of the basic needs and requirements of the elderly;
- (c) Nursing Center refers to the place and facilities that are designed to provide skilled care to elderly twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Government agencies, and instrumentalities shall provide the necessary assistance and support to fulfill the needs of the elderly care and nursing center, such as but not limited to construction of the center, provision of equipment and qualified manpower.

he Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will formulate the rules and regulations, procedures and guidelines to be followed in admitting elderly persons in the facility. They will prescribe the necessary criteria for the determination if the elderly is qualified for admittance. They will also appoint the person or entity who will administer and supervise the elderly care and nursing home.

SEC. 5. *Role of Family Members.* – Family members shall be provided with adequate information on the system as well as for sharing experiences to enable them to care for their elderly. They will also be informed on what their responsibilities when their elderly is admitted to the facility.

1• **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** – To carry out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby
2 appropriated the sum of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) from the General
3 Appropriations Act for the current year for the initial construction and purchase of equipment.
4 Thereafter, the appropriation for such as may be necessary for the purpose shall be provided for
5 in the General Appropriations Act.
6

7 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
8 unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and
9 effect.
10

11 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters
12 of instruction, proclamations, or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the
13 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
14

15 **SEC. 9. Effectivity.** - *This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its*
16 *publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.*

Approved,