



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



First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5536

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE GERALD CLOYD ALEXIS V. GALANG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, some 5,000 to 6,000 inmates or persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) are released from Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) facilities yearly, according to BJMP records.

In terms of senior citizen PDLs (SC PDLs), citing again BJMP records, as of December 2018, a total of 3,169 or 2.32% of the PDL population are aged 60 years old and above. PDLs who are senior citizens are classified as vulnerable groups because of their advancing age and its impact on their well-being, increasing their risks of illnesses thus demanding more attention. At present, there is no existing public policy as to their proper treatment, specific and standard programs and services for them, continuity of care, and especially reintegration to the community upon release.

Studies disclosed that released offenders, regardless of their offense, require jobs to survive in their new domain of liberty. Employment reduces recidivism tendencies and facilitates former PDLs adjustment to civilian life in several ways. Further, the likelihood of criminal behavior decreases significantly when former PDLs are employed. First, employment allows them to earn money to help pay for their daily expenses and rebuild lost relationships with children and family. Second, employment promotes socialization among coworkers and provides structured activity. Third, employment improves social status and allows them to demonstrate to the public that they have learned their lessons.¹

Moreover, studies also show that if a former PDL reintegrates into the community without proper intervention, he or she will most likely return to correctional institutions. Some of them feel like they are facing a whole new second sentence when they re-enter society.²

In the spirit of social justice, this bill seeks to help SC PDLs re-enter the community for them to gain back their self-confidence and live normal lives. Instead of the stigmas, the community may give encouragement and support for their renewal of life to be productive citizens in keeping with the declared policy of the State on senior citizens.

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


GERALD GALANG
2nd Legislative District, City of Valenzuela

¹ Vivares, Kristal May S. (2023) The Reintegration of Ex-Convicts in Society: A Case Study. *International Journal of Social Science and Human Research*. Retrieved on 9 September 2025

² Ibid.



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5536

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

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE REFORMATION AND SOCIAL
REINTEGRATION PROGRAM OF SENIOR CITIZEN PERSONS DEPRIVED OF
LIBERTY (SC PDLs) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. — This Act shall be known as the “*Magna Carta for Senior Citizen Persons Deprived of Liberty (SC PDLs)*”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to promote the general welfare and safeguard the basic rights of every prisoner incarcerated in our national penitentiaries by promoting and ensuring their reformation and social reintegration, creating an environment conducive to rehabilitation and compliant with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners (UNSMRTP).

Further, pursuant to Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social security for them. In addition to this, Section 10 in the Declaration of Principles and State Policies provides: “The State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development”. Lastly, Section 2 of the Social Justice and Human Rights provides that the promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. —

- a. **Office for Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA)** – refers to the office established in cities and municipalities under the Office of the Mayor headed by a senior citizen.³
- b. **Person Deprived of Liberty (PDL)** – refers to a detainee, inmate, prisoner, or another person under confinement or custody in any other manner.⁴
- c. **Senior Citizens’ Act** – refers to Republic Act (RA) No. 7432, as amended by R.A. No. 9257, R.A. No. 9994, and R.A. No. 10645.
- d. **Senior Citizen** – refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines who is at least sixty (60) years old.⁵

³ BJMP-DWD-MC-66, June 11, 2019

⁴ Aguinaldo vs. NBP. G.R. No. 221201, March 29, 2022

⁵ Sec. 2, R.A. 7432

- e. **Senior Citizen's Identification Card (SC ID)** – refers to card issued by the OSCA for the availment of benefits and privileges under the Senior Citizen Act, to be presented by the senior citizen, or his/her duly authorized representative as proof of eligibility and which shall be honored nationwide.⁶
- f. **Senior Citizen PDL (SC PDL)** – refers to a PDL who is 60 years old and above.⁷
- g. **Social Pension** – refers to the monthly stipend amounting to one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of indigent senior citizens.⁸

Sec. 4. Scope of Application. — The provisions of this Act shall apply to all senior citizen persons deprived of liberty (SC PDLs) committed to our national penitentiaries.

Sec. 5. The Comprehensive Reformation and Social Reintegration Program. — The National Commission on Senior Citizens (NCSC) in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government - Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (DILG-BJMP), the Department of Labor and Employment-Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (DOLE-TESDA), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall develop a Comprehensive Reformation and Social Reintegration Program which shall benefit our SC PDLs.

Sec. 6. Incentives for Employers. —

a) To encourage the active participation of the private sector in promoting the social reintegration of SC PDLs and to ensure gainful employment for SC PDLs, adequate incentives shall be provided to private entities which employ SC PDLs.

b) Private entities that employ SC PDLs who meet the required skills or qualifications, shall be entitled to a deduction, from their net taxable income, equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total amount paid as salaries and wages to PDLs: Provided, however, That such entities present proof as certified by the DOLE that such SC PDLs are under their employ.

Sec. 7. Incentives and Awards for Government Employees. — In addition to the incentives and awards that a government employee who catered to a SC PDL may receive pursuant to the Senior Citizens' Act, as amended and other appropriate issuances, government employees who catered to a SC PDL will be granted additional points in their performance ratings depending on their compliance and overall accomplishment in the strict observance and consistent implementation of this policy as reflected in their reports.

Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson and CEO of the National Commission on Senior Citizens, Secretary of Tourism, Secretary of the Labor and Employment, and Secretary of Trade and Industry shall, in consultation with the Chief, BJMP, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 9. Appropriations. — The amount necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Sec. 10. 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.

⁶ BJMP-DWD-MC-66, June 11, 2019

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ By virtue of the enactment of RA 11916 (An Act Increasing the Social Pension of Senior Citizens)

Sec. 11. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 12. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.