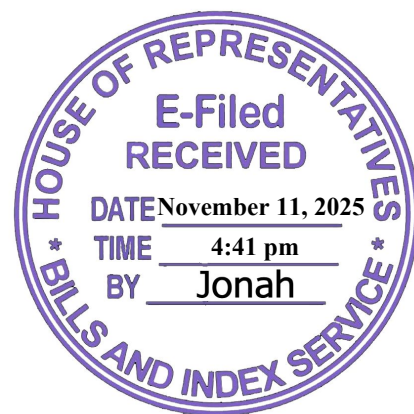


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5862



Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Kailangan tayo ni Lolo at Lola. While many older persons thrive within families, a growing number experience poverty and neglect, revealing gaps which our current social services cannot fully cover. Thousands of senior citizens remain at risk of homelessness, abuse, financially-draining health costs.

The 1987 Constitution recognizes both the primacy of the family and the duty of the State: “*The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.*” This bill operationalizes that mandate by establishing public nursing homes in every city and municipality—ensuring dignified shelter, and long-term care.

To further align with the constitutional provision, priority will be given to homeless seniors with no living relatives, while those with able-bodied relatives may not be abandoned.

Local governments are indispensable to this effort. Under Section 17 of the Local Government Code (RA 7160), LGUs are charged with delivering social welfare services, including programs for vulnerable sectors such as the elderly.

The State already extends protections and benefits to seniors through the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, yet residential long-term care remains limited and uneven. Existing public facilities such as the DSWD’s *Haven for the Elderly* cannot meet nationwide demand.¹ Establishing at least one nursing home per LGU creates guaranteed access regardless of locality.

In sum, this Bill gives practical effect to the Constitution’s call to uphold human dignity and to share this responsibility fairly between families and the State.

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

JOEL R. CHUA
Representative, 3rd District, Manila

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Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC NURSING HOMES IN
EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the "Public Nursing Home Act of 2025".

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy* – Pursuant to Article XV, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution, which provides that “the family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security,” it is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of senior citizens.

For this purpose, the State shall establish and maintain homes for the elderly in every city and municipality to ensure that senior citizens, particularly those who are abandoned, homeless, or without family or kin to provide care, are afforded adequate shelter and appropriate services.

Section 3. *Establishment of Nursing Homes* – Each City and Municipality is hereby mandated to establish and maintain a Public Nursing Home dedicated for their respective constituency. These nursing homes shall provide shelter and elderly care, and shall be managed jointly by the local Social Welfare Office and the local Office for Senior Citizen Affairs. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) shall provide technical assistance and supervision in the implementation of this program.

Each nursing home shall provide the following:

- a.** Facilities, rooms and spaces suitable for the elderly;

- b. Basic utilities such as electricity and water;
- c. Sufficient qualified staff to render appropriate services to elderly wards;
- d. Basic health and recreational facilities; and
- e. An administrative office.

Section 4. *Bed Capacity Requirement* – The bed capacity for each Nursing Home shall be at least proportionate to the size of its population, taking into account their respective aging demography.

Section 5. *Qualified Senior Residents* – Senior citizens must undergo proper screening prior to their admission to the nursing home. Priority shall be given to homeless senior citizens with no living relatives. In no case may an able-bodied relative entrust their senior relative to the nursing home.

Section 6. *Utility Discount* – All public nursing homes shall be entitled to discounts in electricity, water and telecommunications pursuant to Republic Act No. 9994.

Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The DSWD and the NCSC, in consultation with other concerned agencies, shall have joint responsibility over the formulation of the implementing Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective execution and enforcement of this Act.

The Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be released within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act.

Section 8. *Period of Implementation* - The overall national plan of implementation shall cover initially a period of five (5) years: Provided, That those cities and municipalities with higher senior citizen population shall have priority in the allocation of resources.

The DSWD and the NCSC, together with the Philippine Statistics Office and the different local government units, shall come up with the list of priority areas.

Section 9. *Appropriations* – The funding necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment, and every year thereafter.

Section 10. *Separability Clause* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 11. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, executive orders, and administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Section 12. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the online version of the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or with an established internet website presence.

Approved,