



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



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6121

Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A RESIDENTIAL NURSING CENTER FOR THE ELDERLY IN
ZAMBOANGA CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ZAMBOANGA CITY GOLDEN OASIS
FOR ELDERLY CARE (ZCGOLD)”, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State honors every Filipino's contribution to nation-building, with special gratitude for our senior citizens. In their prime, they shaped communities and drove the country forward, standing as guiding pillars for today.

The Constitution upholds social justice and comprehensive health, guaranteeing essential services and care for senior citizens who are unattached, abused, abandoned, neglected, or homeless, especially those burdened by sickness, poverty, or disability. These individuals now deserve the same care and compassion they once gave to others.

According to POPCOM, over 8 million Filipinos are aged 60+, about 8.2% of the nation. As this number rises, the need for sustainable elderly care grows, especially in cities like Zamboanga, where many seniors lack the support they need.

Over the years, the government has enacted laws, such as Republic Act No. 7432 and its subsequent amendments, to honor and assist our senior citizens by providing benefits and social pensions. Yet, despite these efforts, the burden faced by many elderly Filipinos remains heavy. Rising prices of basic commodities, rising healthcare needs, and limited institutional capacity make it difficult for families, especially those living below the poverty line, to provide consistent, adequate care. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that in 2018, a family of five needed at least ₱7,337 monthly to meet basic food requirements and ₱10,481 to afford both food and non-food essentials, amounts that have since risen. With 21.6% of Filipinos living below the poverty threshold, many families struggle to meet their own needs, leaving countless elderly without the level of care they deserve.

In Zamboanga City, my dear hometown, this national challenge is urgent. The city is home to around 55,392 senior citizens, about 35,000 of whom are indigent and rely on the national Social Pension Program, highlighting widespread financial hardship. My office records show that nearly 100,000 seniors are seeking assistance from July to October 2025. Many struggle

with chronic illness, frailty, bedridden, a lack of caregivers, and sometimes homelessness or abandonment. However, Zamboanga City still lacks dedicated nursing and residential care facilities providing long-term medical care, meals, rehabilitation, emotional support, and dignified living for those unable to remain at home.

Families are the first caregivers for the elderly, but the State must build and strengthen support systems. Current pensions and welfare programs, while important, cannot meet all the growing needs of our aging population.

To address these urgent needs, this measure specifically aims to establish Nursing Centers for Senior Citizens in Zamboanga City. These centers will be operated by the Department of Health in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and local private health institutions and major businesses. The centers will provide comprehensive, long-term support for the city's elderly population.

This initiative shows our compassion and duty. It ensures no senior in Zamboanga City ever feels abandoned.

The true progress of society is seen in how it cares for its elders, those who carried us, taught us, and sacrificed for us. Let us act now with kindness and foresight. Give our seniors the care, comfort, and dignity they deserve.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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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 “Zamboanga City Golden Oasis
for Elderly Care Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
promote the rights, welfare, and well-being of senior citizens, providing them with proper
health care, residential support, and social services, in accordance with Republic Act No. 9994,
also known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.”

In line with this policy, the State recognizes the need to establish a dedicated residential
nursing center for the elderly in Zamboanga City to ensure their holistic care, comfort, and
dignity.

SECTION 3. Establishment of the Residential Nursing Center for the Elderly. -
There is hereby established a residential nursing center for elderly persons in Zamboanga City,
to be known as the “Zamboanga City Golden Oasis for Elderly Care” (ZCGOLD).

The ZCGOLD shall provide:

- a. 24-hour residential care for senior citizens;
- b. Comprehensive health and medical services, including preventive, curative, and
rehabilitative care;
- c. Social, recreational, and spiritual activities aimed at enhancing the quality of life
of the residents;
- d. Assistance and counseling for families of elderly residents; and
- e. Any other programs or services deemed necessary for the welfare of the elderly.

SECTION 4. Empowerment, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration Programs. - The Zamboanga City Golden Oasis for Elderly Care (ZCGOLD) shall implement programs and services aimed at empowering, rehabilitating, and reintegrating elderly residents into society, including, but not limited to:

- a. Skills and livelihood training employment opportunities to enhance self-reliance and productive engagement;
- b. Physical and occupational rehabilitation programs to maintain or restore mobility, health, and independence;
- c. Social and community reintegration activities, including volunteerism, cultural participation, and intergenerational programs;
- d. Psychosocial counseling and support groups to address emotional and mental well-being;
- e. Advocacy and awareness campaigns to promote the role, dignity, and rights of senior citizens in society.

The ZCGOLD shall coordinate with relevant government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community groups to maximize the effectiveness of these programs.

SECTION 5. Administration and Management. - The ZCGOLD shall be under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Central Officer through the direct supervision of DSWD Region IX Office, Zamboanga City, in close coordination with the Zamboanga City's City Social Welfare and Development Office (CSWDO) and other relevant national and local government agencies. The Department of Health (DOH) shall oversee the staffing and nursing care program integration.

The center shall be managed by a Director, to be appointed by the City Mayor with concurrent approval of the District Representative, who shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration, personnel management, and implementation of programs and services.

SECTION 6. Funding. - The initial funding of Php 500,000,000.00 for the establishment, construction, creation of facilities, and the procurement of ZCGOLD facilities shall be sourced from the current year's appropriations of the Philippine Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) and the Philippine Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), and other relevant Government and Owned Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), while its staffing and programs shall be chargeable against the funding of DSWD with the DOH as its support.

Thereafter, such sums necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the center, shall be included in the annual budgetary funds of DSWD and DOH under the Fiscal Year's General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, DSWD, DSWD RO IX, DOH, and the Zamboanga City's Social Welfare Development Office (CSWDO) shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. - If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.