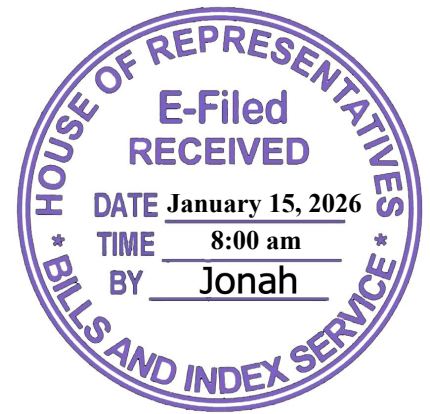


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7124

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“Mahirap mabuhay pero mas mahirap mamatay”— this is a popular saying among Filipinos about the burden of handling burial expenses. The death of a family member often brings not only profound grief but also severe financial distress to the surviving family.

After exhausting their limited resources on medical expenses, many Filipino households are unprepared to shoulder the high costs of mortuary services and burial arrangements. For indigent families, this sudden financial burden tend to result in debt and delayed internment.

This bill recognizes that access to proper mortuary and cremation services is a basic social service that should be made available to all, regardless of economic status. By mandating the establishment of public mortuaries and crematoriums in cities and municipalities, the State seeks to ensure that every deceased person is accorded dignity, while sparing bereaved families from additional hardship during a time of mourning.

Ultimately, this Act promotes compassion and equity, and upholds the State’s duty to protect vulnerable families when they are most in need.

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


JOEL R. CHUA

Representative, 3rd District, Manila

Republic of the Philippines
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Introduced by: **REP. JOEL R. CHUA**

AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC MORTUARIES AND CREMATORIUMS IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, PROVIDING FREE SERVICES TO INDIGENTS

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 Mortuary and Crematorium Act."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the freedom of its people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services and improved quality of life. To this end, the State, through the local governments, shall establish public mortuaries and crematoriums to provide free services for indigent decedents.

Section 3. Definition of Terms. — The following terms as used in this Act shall mean the following:

- a.) A mortuary shall refer to a funeral home or morgue where the body of a deceased person is prepared to be buried or burned.
- b.) A crematorium shall refer to a designated place duly authorized by law to cremate dead persons.
- c.) Indigent persons shall refer to a person who has no visible means of support or whose combined gross income does not exceed twice the minimum wage.

Section 4. Establishment of Public Mortuaries and Crematoriums. – Each city and municipality is hereby mandated to establish and maintain a Public Mortuary and Crematorium dedicated for their respective constituency.

Each nursing home shall employ the necessary manpower and shall be equipped with adequate facilities. Furthermore, the design, construction, technical requirements, sanitary certification, and operation of the public crematories, as well as handling of dead bodies shall be in compliance with other relevant laws and regulations including Presidential Decree 856, otherwise known as the "Code on Sanitation of the Philippines" and Republic Act No. 8749, or the "Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999," and their respective implementing rules and regulation.

Section 5. *Provision of Free Services for Indigents.* — Public mortuaries and crematoriums shall provide free services to indigent decedents or decedents belonging to an indigent family. Further, deceased persons whose relatives cannot be located and have not been claimed from hospitals may also be given free services.

Section 6. *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 populations shall have priority in the allocation of resources.

The Philippine Statistics Office and the Department of Interior and Local Government shall come up with the list of priority areas.

Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Health and the Department of Interior and Local Government, 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. *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 9. *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 10. *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 11. *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,