



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7971**



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

Recent data underscores a critical demographic shift in the Philippines: the ageing of its population. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), as of 2020, there were 9,242,121 Filipinos aged 60 and above, and 5,866,831 aged 65 and above. These figures represent 8.5% and 5.4% of the total population of 109,033,245, respectively. These numbers are expected to grow significantly in the coming decades due to improvements in life expectancy and declining birth rates.

Culturally, Filipinos have long taken pride in caring for their elderly at home. The notion of institutionalizing care--such as placing aging family members in nursing homes--is often foreign and, in many cases, frowned upon. It is deeply ingrained in the Filipino identity to look after our elderly parents, grandparents, and relatives, particularly during the twilight of their lives.

Unfortunately, the reality on the ground reveals a much more troubling picture. Across cities and towns, it is not uncommon to see elderly individuals begging, selling small goods on sidewalks, or sleeping outside train stations, churches, and other public spaces. Homelessness among senior citizens has emerged as a deeply concerning issue.

This problem arises from a combination of socioeconomic and emotional factors. Many families are simply unable to provide the financial and logistical support needed to care for their aging members. Others may neglect or exclude elderly relatives, leading some senior citizens to voluntarily leave their homes due to feelings of abandonment or mistreatment. Current estimates suggest that as many as 90% of senior citizens in the country do not receive adequate care.

In line with this constitutional directive and in response to this growing crisis, this proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the care and protection of elderly Filipinos by mandating the establishment of at least one residential care facility, group home, or nursing home in every

province and city. These facilities are envisioned to provide not only safe and secure shelter but also essential services that uphold the dignity and well-being of elderly residents. This includes the provision of nutritious food, proper clothing, medical and healthcare services, and psychosocial support. In addition, programs will be implemented to promote literacy, livelihood and vocational training, religious and cultural engagement, and efforts to reconnect estranged elderly individuals with their families through outreach and dialogue.

Through this measure, the State affirms its commitment to ensuring that no elderly Filipino is left behind. It seeks to turn compassion into policy by creating a system of care that respects the worth of every senior citizen, upholding our cultural values while addressing the urgent social realities of our time.

It is for these reasons that urgent passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


GERALD GALANG
2nd Legislative District, City of Valenzuela



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AT LEAST ONE NURSING HOME PER CITY OR PROVINCE
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title. - The Act shall be known as the “Nursing Home for Senior Citizens (NHSC) Act”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to value the dignity of every human person and guarantee full respect for human rights, extend assistance to its elderly citizens through programs of social security, and promote the right to health and safety of its senior citizens. Towards this end, the State shall extend assistance to neglected and homeless senior citizens by establishing nursing homes that will provide shelter and assistance for this marginalized sector.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act:

- a. **Care** refers to the fulfillment of the special needs and requirements of the senior citizens.
- b. **Nursing Home for Senior Citizens or NHSC** refers to the place and facilities designed to provide skilled care to the elderly, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
- c. **Senior citizen** refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

Sec. 4. Establishment of NHSC. - The city or provincial local government unit (LGU) shall establish an NHSC in their respective jurisdictions for the services provided in Section 5 of this Act.

Sec. 5. Services of NHSC. - The NHSC shall provide senior citizens with the following services:

- a. Comfortable living spaces;

- b. Adequate food and clothing;
- c. Personal and custodial care;
- d. Medical consultation, treatment, and monitoring;
- e. Health care;
- f. Social and recreational activities;
- g. Occupational opportunities;
- h. Counseling;
- i. Family dialogue;
- j. Case conferences;
- k. Literacy education;
- l. Religious, cultural, and vocational activities; and
- m. Such other similar services, as may be required by the LGU concerned.

Sec. 6. Administration of NHSC. - The Office of the City Mayor or Provincial Governor shall have the control and management of the NHSC. The Office shall also appoint the person who will administer the NHSC.

Sec. 7. Supervision and Monitoring NHSC. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall supervise and monitor the NHSC to ensure it is faithfully providing the services stated in Section 5 of this Act.

The City or Provincial Social Welfare Development Officer shall submit a quarterly report on the disbursements and expenditures related to the management of the NHSC under their respective jurisdictions to the DSWD.

Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DSWD, in coordination with the Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Government, and other concerned agencies and entities, shall hereby promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act not later than ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

Sec. 9. Appropriations. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the appropriations of the DSWD in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

Sec. 10. Separability Clause. - In the event any provision of this Act or the application of such provision is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of the said provision shall not be affected thereby.

Sec. 11. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,