

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 8535



Introduced by Representatives JEFFREY SORIANO and JOCELYN P. TULFO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate the establishment of public crematoriums in cities and municipalities and to provide free cremation services to indigent families.

The rising cost of funeral and burial services has become a significant burden for many Filipino families, particularly those belonging to the poorest sectors of society. Traditional burial practices often involve expenses for caskets, embalming, interment, and cemetery fees, which can be difficult to afford for families with limited or no income. In many instances, indigent families are forced to borrow money, rely on charity, or delay proper burial due to financial constraints.

Cremation offers a practical, sanitary, and cost-effective alternative to traditional burial. However, access to cremation services in the country remains limited and is often provided only by private facilities where service fees remain beyond the reach of low-income families. The establishment of publicly managed crematoriums in cities and municipalities will help address this gap by ensuring that affordable and accessible cremation services are available at the local level.

This measure also amends Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of the Philippines, by including public crematoriums among the basic services and facilities that local government units are mandated to provide. Furthermore, the measure grants free cremation services to indigent decedents and provides that the establishment of such facilities may be supported by national government subsidies through the annual appropriations law.

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


HON. JEFFREY SORIANO


HON. JOCELYN P. TULFO

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AN ACT

MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC CREMATORIUMS IN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENDING FREE CREMATION SERVICES TO INDIGENT FAMILIES, AMENDING FOR SUCH PURPOSE SECTION 17 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “*Public Crematorium Act*”.

SEC. 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. As part of fulfilling this, the State shall establish public crematoriums that shall provide free cremations for indigent decedents.

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

- a. Crematorium refers to a designated place duly authorized by law to cremate dead persons.
- b. Indigent refers to a person who has no visible means of support or whose income falls below the minimum wage in the region as determined by the Regional Tripartite Wage Board; or whose income falls within the minimum wage but has two other persons dependent upon him or her for support.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of Public Crematoriums.* — Section 17 of Republic No. 7160, as amended, otherwise known as the Local Government Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 17. Basic Services and Facilities —

xxx xxx xxx

(b) Such basic services and facilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

xxx xxx xxx

(2) For a Municipality:

xxx xxx xxx

(x) Public cemetery **AND PUBLIC
CREMATORIUM"**

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 the 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.

SEC. 5. *Anti-Pollution Measures.* — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall issue pertinent guidelines and practices promoting anti-pollution measures such as, but not limited to, installation of filter systems and similar pollution control devices, designation of pollution officers, neutralization of pollutants and toxic wastes, reduction of particulate matter, more efficient use of fuel and energy, adequate controls on emission levels, among others.

SEC. 6. *Coverage.* — Families whose combined gross income does not exceed Php 15,000 per month, do not own real property, or a vehicle. The real property mentioned refers to property acquired through sale.

SEC. 7. *Provision of Free Cremation Services for Indigents.* — Notwithstanding any provision of law, indigent decedents or a decedent belonging to an indigent family, as determined by the city or municipal health officer, on the basis of existing laws and regulations, shall be cremated in public crematoriums free of charge.

The local city or municipal health officer shall duly record all cremations performed in the public crematorium.

SEC. 8. *Subsidy from the National Government.* — The costs for the establishment of public crematoriums in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall be provided in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* — The Department of Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Finance shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the release of the subsidy from the National Government in accordance with Section 3 of this Act.

The Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations with respect to the minimum technical requirements for public crematoriums taking into consideration the population size of cities or municipalities, the necessary environmental precautions and safety measures for their establishment as well as other matters provided for in this Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,