

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8596



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A SENIOR CITIZEN CAREGIVING FACILITY IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The number of senior citizens in the Philippines continues to grow, and many elderly Filipinos now require long-term care, medical attention, and assistance with daily activities. While families traditionally provide this care, many households face financial difficulties, work obligations, migration, or distance that make full-time caregiving difficult. As a result, frail, sickly, disabled, abandoned, or indigent senior citizens are often left without the consistent support they need, especially in provinces where institutional care facilities are limited.

The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 (Republic Act No. 9994) recognizes that caring for the elderly is a shared responsibility of families, communities, and the government. The law calls for integrated health and social services for senior citizens, including specialized geriatric care and community support programs. Meanwhile, the Senior Citizens Center Act of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 7876) requires every city and municipality to establish senior citizen centers. However, these community centers are not always designed to provide residential care, assisted living, or continuous supervision for seniors who require intensive support.

This bill therefore proposes the establishment of a Senior Citizen Caregiving Facility in the Second District of the Province of Southern Leyte. The facility will provide residential and day-care services for qualified elderly individuals, particularly

indigent and high-dependency seniors who need continuous care, rehabilitation, nutrition support, and psychosocial services. By offering a safe and professionally managed environment, the facility will complement existing community programs, help ease the burden on families and hospitals, and ensure that vulnerable seniors receive proper care and dignity in their later years.

The measure also aligns with regional development priorities that recognize the growing need for structured elderly care services in Eastern Visayas. Through coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Health, and local government units, the proposed facility will operate within the government's existing social protection framework while remaining subject to regular appropriations and oversight.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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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 *“Second District of Southern Leyte Senior Citizen Caregiving Facility Act.”*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare of senior citizens by ensuring access to appropriate long-term care, assisted living, health support, and social services, particularly for indigent, abandoned, neglected, unattached, homeless, frail, sickly, bedridden, or high-dependency senior citizens who can no longer be adequately supported at home or in the community. This policy shall be implemented in a manner that complements existing senior citizens programs, including LGU-based senior citizens centers and integrated health services for senior citizens.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- (a) **Facility** refers to the Senior Citizen Caregiving Facility established under this Act.
- (b) **Senior Citizen** has the meaning provided under existing senior citizens laws.

- (c) **Indigent Senior Citizen** refers to a senior citizen who is frail, sickly, or with disability, and without any pension or permanent source of income, compensation, or financial assistance from relatives to support basic needs, as determined in accordance with applicable guidelines.
- (d) **High-Dependency Senior Citizen** refers to a senior citizen requiring assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) such as feeding, bathing, toileting, mobility, medication administration, or continuous supervision due to physical or cognitive impairment, as may be further defined in the implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the Facility. — There is hereby established a government-run Senior Citizen Caregiving Facility in the Second District of the Province of Southern Leyte, which shall serve as a residential and day-care institution providing assisted living, continuous care, and other services for qualified senior citizens, subject to admission and discharge policies under this Act and its implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. Implementing and Supervising Agencies. —

- (a) **Lead Agency.** — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall be the lead implementing and supervising agency for the establishment, operation, and management of the Facility.
- (b) **Technical Support and Coordination.** — The DSWD shall coordinate with the Department of Health (DOH) for medical, nursing, geriatric, preventive health, and referral protocols, consistent with the national health program and integrated health services for senior citizens.
- (c) **Coordination with NCSC and LGUs.** — The DSWD shall coordinate with the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), the Provincial Government of Southern Leyte, and the concerned LGUs for beneficiary identification, community linkages, after-care, and reintegration services, and to complement the programs and services of senior citizens centers established under law.
- (d) **Facility Management.** — The DSWD shall designate a Facility Administrator and create an internal management structure to ensure efficient and accountable delivery of services.

SECTION 6. Intended Beneficiaries; Admission Priority. — The Facility shall prioritize admission of:

- (a) Indigent senior citizens;
- (b) Abandoned, neglected, unattached, homeless, frail, sickly, or bedridden senior citizens;
- (c) Senior citizens with disability or high-dependency care needs; and
- (d) Other senior citizens who may be temporarily admitted for respite care or short-term custodial care, subject to capacity, standards, and payment arrangements, if any, as may be authorized in the implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. Scope of Services. — The Facility shall provide, at a minimum, the following:

- (a) Residential care and temporary custodial care, including respite care;
- (b) Basic medical and nursing services and medication management, consistent with DOH standards;
- (c) Rehabilitation and physical therapy services, or referral arrangements for the same;
- (d) Nutrition, wellness, and preventive health programs, including health education;
- (e) Mental health, psychosocial, and recreational and spiritual support activities;
- (f) Case management, counseling, and family/community reintegration services; and
- (g) Referral and transport coordination to hospitals and specialized institutions when necessary.

SECTION 8. Site and LGU Participation. — The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte and the LGUs within the Second District shall assist in identifying or providing a suitable site in the Municipality of Sogod, Southern Leyte, securing permits, and integrating local health and social welfare support services to reduce national government expenditures.

SECTION 9. Staffing Pattern and Capability Building. — The DSWD, in coordination with the DOH and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), shall determine a cost-efficient staffing pattern consisting of qualified caregivers, nurses, social workers, nutritionists, rehabilitation personnel, and administrative and support staff,

subject to existing civil service, budgeting, and compensation laws. The DOH shall support capability building and training of staff in geriatric care, consistent with the State's policy of training personnel to specialize in geriatric health concerns.

SECTION 10. Standards, Licensing, and Safeguards. —

- (a) **Standards of Care.** — The DOH, in coordination with the DSWD, shall issue minimum standards for basic medical and nursing services, infection prevention and control, medication storage and administration, emergency response, and referral protocols.
- (b) **Operations Manual.** — The DSWD shall adopt an operations manual covering admission/discharge criteria, consent and decision-making support, residents' rights and grievance procedures, visiting policies, record-keeping, and coordination with senior citizens centers and community-based services.
- (c) **Protection of Residents.** — The Facility shall adopt measures to prevent abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discrimination of residents, and shall establish internal reporting and response mechanisms consistent with existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 11. Appropriations. —

- (a) **Initial Capital Outlay.** — The amount necessary for the construction, renovation, or establishment of the Facility shall be charged against the capital outlay appropriations of the DSWD under the current or subsequent General Appropriations Act (GAA), and thereafter included in the annual GAA.
- (b) **Annual Operating Budget.** — The amount necessary for personnel services, maintenance and other operating expenses, and program implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the DSWD.
- (c) **Counterpart Support.** — The Provincial Government of Southern Leyte and concerned LGUs may provide counterpart funding, utilities, land, personnel augmentation, or in-kind contributions, consistent with local development plans and applicable laws.

SECTION 12. Acceptance of Grants and Donations. — The DSWD may accept grants, donations, and endowments from public or private sources for the

improvement and operation of the Facility, subject to existing accounting and auditing laws and regulations.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with the DOH, the NCSC, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the concerned LGUs, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) necessary for the effective implementation of this Act. The IRR shall be consistent with this Act and shall not diminish or unduly restrict the beneficiaries and services herein established, but may prescribe procedures, standards, and documentation requirements necessary to ensure proper implementation and accountability.

SECTION 14. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 15. Repealing Clause. — All laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 16. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,