



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 9253

Introduced by **HON. YEVGENY VINCENTE B. EMANO**

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS “SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH,” EXPANDING THE OBSERVANCE OF ELDERLY FILIPINO WEEK UNDER PROCLAMATION NO. 470, STRENGTHENING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to experience a steady increase in its senior citizen population, underscoring the urgent need to strengthen mechanisms that promote their welfare, protect their rights, and ensure their meaningful participation in society. While existing laws—most notably Republic Act No. 9994—provide a comprehensive framework of benefits and privileges, there remains a gap in sustained public awareness, coordinated implementation, and community-level engagement.

At present, the observance of elderly welfare is largely limited to a one-week celebration under Proclamation No. 470. While this initiative has contributed to promoting awareness, its limited duration constrains the full delivery of programs and services necessary to address the multifaceted needs of senior citizens.

This proposed measure seeks to institutionalize the entire month of October as “Senior Citizens Month,” thereby expanding the existing Elderly Filipino Week into a more comprehensive, sustained, and program-driven nationwide observance. By doing so, the bill ensures that government agencies, local government units, and educational institutions dedicate sufficient time and resources to implement meaningful and impactful initiatives for the elderly.

This measure is anchored on the State’s constitutional mandate under Article II, Section 15 and Section 9 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, which directs the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to establish a just and dynamic social order that ensures the well-being of all sectors,

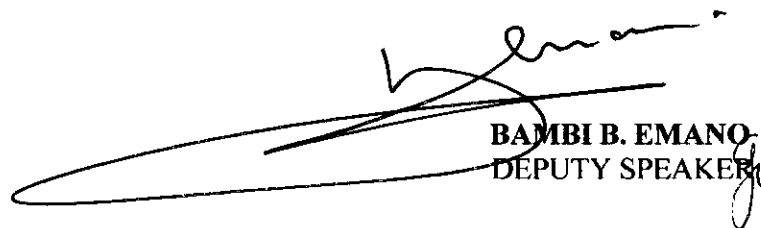
including vulnerable populations such as senior citizens. It likewise reinforces the policy under Republic Act No. 9994 to give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and to ensure their integration into nation-building.

By mandating the conduct of health programs, social protection services, legal assistance, and age-friendly community initiatives, the bill promotes a holistic approach to senior citizen welfare. It also strengthens inter-agency coordination by designating key government bodies such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to lead implementation and ensure accountability.

Furthermore, the bill empowers local government units to take an active role through annual action plans, budget allocation, and direct coordination with senior citizen organizations—thereby localizing and sustaining program delivery.

Ultimately, this measure transforms a symbolic observance into a concrete and institutionalized platform for delivering essential services, raising awareness, and fostering a culture of respect and inclusion for senior citizens across the country.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



BAMBI B. EMANO
DEPUTY SPEAKER



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Senior Citizens Month Act".

SECTION. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the welfare, well-being, and active participation of senior citizens in nation-building, and to recognize their invaluable contributions to society.

The State shall strengthen mechanisms that ensure the full implementation of programs and benefits under existing laws, particularly Republic Act No. 9994, by institutionalizing a sustained, nationwide, and program-driven observance dedicated to senior citizens.

SECTION. 3. *Objective.* - The observance of Senior Citizens Month shall aim to:

- a. Promote awareness of the rights, privileges, and benefits of senior citizens;
- b. Ensure access to health, social, and economic services;
- c. Encourage active participation of senior citizens in community affairs;
- d. Foster age-friendly environments in communities nationwide; and
- e. Strengthen inter-agency and local government collaboration for senior citizen welfare.

SECTION. 4. *Declaration of Senior Citizens Month.* - The month of October of every year is

hereby declared as “Senior Citizens Month.” The existing observance of Elderly Filipino Week from October 1 to 7, as established under Proclamation No. 470, shall be retained and integrated as the highlight week of the month-long celebration.

SECTION 5. *Mandatory Programs and Activities.* - All national government agencies (NGAs), government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), local government units (LGUs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), and public and private educational institutions are hereby mandated to conduct and participate in activities throughout the month, which shall include but not be limited to:

a. Health Programs

- Free medical and dental check-ups
- Vaccination drives and maintenance medicine access
- Mental health and wellness programs

b. Social Protection and Pension Awareness

- Information drives on social pensions and benefits
- Assistance in registration and claims processing
- Financial literacy and anti-fraud seminars

c. Age-Friendly Community Initiatives

- Implementation of accessibility measures in public spaces
- Promotion of senior citizen-friendly infrastructure
- Community engagement and intergenerational activities

d. Legal and Welfare Services

- Free legal consultations
- Assistance on elder abuse reporting and protection mechanisms

SECTION. 6. *Roles of Government Agencies.* -

a. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

-Shall serve as the lead agency in the planning, coordination, and monitoring of Senior Citizens Month activities nationwide.

b. Department of Health (DOH)

-Shall lead in implementing health-related programs and services.

c. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)

-Shall ensure compliance of LGUs and integration of programs at the local level.

d. Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Department of Education (DepEd)

-Shall encourage participation of students and institutions in awareness and outreach programs.

SECTION. 7. *Local Government Implementation.* - All LGUs shall:

a. Prepare and implement an Annual Senior Citizens Month Action Plan;

b. Allocate necessary funds from their annual budgets;

c. Coordinate with accredited senior citizen organizations; and

d. Submit accomplishment reports to the DILG and DSWD.

SECTION. 8. *Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms.*- AThe DSWD, in coordination with concerned agencies, shall:

a. Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework;

b. Require submission of annual reports from implementing agencies and LGUs;

c. Submit a consolidated annual report to Congress detailing program implementation, outcomes, and recommendations.

SECTION. 9. *Funding* - The initial funding for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

LGUs are likewise encouraged to allocate funds to support localized implementation.

SECTION. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The BSP shall in, coordination with the Department of Budget and Management, DTI, DICT, and DILG, promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION. 11. *Separability Clause.*- If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION. 12. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION. 13. *Effectivity.*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,