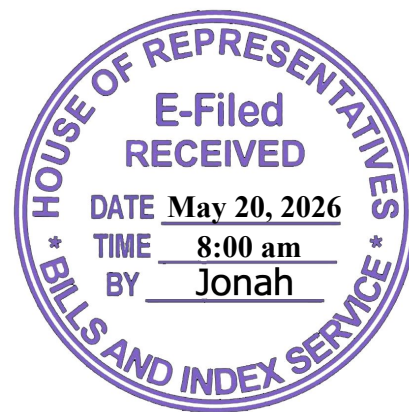


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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9347

Introduced by Representative Hon. Julianne “Jam” L. Baronda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development and make essential social services available to all people at affordable cost, with priority for the elderly, among others.

Likewise, Republic Act No. 7876 declares it a policy of the State to provide adequate social services and improve the quality of life of senior citizens. The law further provides for the establishment of senior citizens centers to promote the welfare and well-being of elderly persons.

Despite existing laws, many senior citizens remain abandoned, neglected, homeless, or without adequate family support. A significant number of elderly Filipinos suffer from lack of shelter, medical care, nutrition, and emotional support, thereby exposing them to abuse, exploitation, and serious health risks.

This proposed measure seeks to establish at least one Senior Citizen Residential Care Home in every region of the country to serve as a safe haven for indigent, abandoned, neglected, homeless, and vulnerable senior citizens. These centers shall provide residential care, medical and psychosocial services, nutrition, recreation, and other interventions necessary to ensure a dignified and humane quality of life for the elderly.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jam L. Baronda", written over the printed name.

HON. JULIENNE “JAM” L. BARONDA
Representative
Lone District, Iloilo City

50 **Republic of the Philippines**
51 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
52 **Quezon City, Metro Manila**
53 **TWENTIETH CONGRESS**
54 **First Regular Session**

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57 **HOUSE BILL NO. 9347**
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60 Introduced by Representative Hon. Julianne “Jam” L. Baronda
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63 **AN ACT ESTABLISHING SENIOR CITIZEN RESIDENTIAL CARE HOMES IN**
64 **EVERY REGION OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR THEIR**
65 **FUNCTIONS, FUNDING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

68 **Section 1. Short Title.**

69 This Act shall be known as the “**Senior Citizen Residential Care Homes Act.**”

70 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.**

71 It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the welfare, dignity,
72 and well-being of senior citizens and ensure that abandoned, neglected, homeless,
73 indigent, and vulnerable elderly persons are provided with adequate shelter, care,
74 protection, medical attention, and social services.

75 Towards this end, the State shall establish accessible and properly managed residential
76 care homes for senior citizens in every region of the country.

77 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.**

78 For purposes of this Act:

- 79 1. **Senior Citizen** refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines aged sixty (60)
80 years or older;
81 2. **Residential Care Home** refers to a government-operated or government-
82 accredited residential facility that provides temporary or permanent shelter, health
83 care, nutrition, psychosocial services, and daily living assistance to senior citizens;
84 3. **Indigent Senior Citizen** refers to a senior citizen who has no regular source of
85 income or financial support sufficient for subsistence;
86 4. **Abandoned or Neglected Senior Citizen** refers to a senior citizen who has been
87 deserted, left without proper care, or deprived of basic needs by persons
88 responsible for his or her care.

89 **Section 4. Establishment of Senior Citizen Residential Care Homes.**

90 There shall be established at least one (1) **Senior Citizen Residential Care Home** in
91 every administrative region of the Philippines.

92 The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the
93 Department of Health (DOH), local government units (LGUs), and concerned agencies,
94 shall determine the appropriate location, capacity, and operational requirements of each
95 care home.

96 **Section 5. Coverage and Beneficiaries.**

97 The Residential Care Homes established under this Act shall primarily serve:

- 98 1. Abandoned senior citizens;
- 99 2. Homeless senior citizens;
- 100 3. Neglected or abused senior citizens;
- 101 4. Indigent senior citizens without family support; and
- 102 5. Senior citizens requiring temporary protective custody or residential care.

103 **Section 6. Services and Facilities.**

104 The Residential Care Homes shall provide senior citizens with appropriate shelter, food,
105 medical and psychosocial care, recreational and wellness activities, rehabilitation services,
106 and other support necessary for their protection, health, and well-being.

107 All facilities established under this Act shall be safe, sanitary, accessible, and compliant
108 with standards prescribed by applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

109 **Section 7. Administration and Management.**

110 The DSWD shall be the lead agency responsible for the administration, supervision, and
111 management of the Residential Care Homes established under this Act.

112 **Section 8. Admission and Referral System.**

113 The DSWD shall formulate guidelines for the admission, referral, transfer, discharge, and
114 monitoring of beneficiaries under this Act.

115 **Section 9. Appropriations.**

116 The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against
117 the current appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for
118 the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
119 Appropriations Act.

120 **Section 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.**

121 Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with
122 the DOH, DILG, DBM, National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), and relevant
123 stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
124 implementation of this Act.

125 **Section 11. Separability Clause.**

126 If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining
127 provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

128 **Section 12. Repealing Clause.**

129 All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent
130 with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

131 **Section 13. Effectivity.**

132 This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or
133 in a newspaper of general circulation.

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135 *Approved,*