



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9361**

Introduced by HON. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7876, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SENIOR
CITIZENS CENTER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES," TRANSFERRING THE LEAD
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
AND DEVELOPMENT TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR
CITIZENS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 7876, otherwise known as the "Senior Citizens Center Act of the Philippines," by transferring the lead implementing agency from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), and strengthening the policy framework governing the establishment, management, and operation of Senior Citizens Centers nationwide.

RA 7876 institutionalized the establishment of Senior Citizens Centers in every city and municipality to serve as community-based facilities that promote the welfare, participation, and active aging of senior citizens. However, since the creation of the NCSC under RA 11350, there is now a dedicated national agency mandated specifically to formulate policies, coordinate programs, and oversee services for senior citizens.

This measure aligns the implementation of Senior Citizens Centers with the NCSC, thereby ensuring a more focused, specialized, and coherent governance structure for programs intended for senior citizens. The transfer of administrative supervision to the NCSC strengthens policy coordination, avoids duplication of functions, and enhances the delivery of services to address the needs of senior citizens.

The bill further enhances the functions of the Centers by clearly defining them as community-based hubs for the delivery of social protection, health facilitation, livelihood support, and active aging programs. It strengthens coordination among national

government agencies, local government units, and civil society organizations to ensure more responsive and integrated service delivery at the local level.

The bill also reinforces the rights-based approach in the provision of services, ensuring that senior citizens are not denied access to Center programs on the basis of health conditions, while providing a humane and coordinated referral mechanism for those requiring specialized care or supervision.

To support sustainability, the measure adopts a shared funding approach wherein the National Government, through the General Appropriations Act and concerned agencies, and Local Government Units (LGUs) shall jointly provide funding support for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the Centers, subject to national standards and budgeting laws and guidelines.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rodolfo M. Ordanes', written over the printed name.

RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9351**

Introduced by HON. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7876, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SENIOR
CITIZENS CENTER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES," TRANSFERRING THE LEAD
IMPLEMENTING AGENCY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
AND DEVELOPMENT TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR
CITIZENS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7876 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. *Establishment of Centers.* — There is hereby established a senior citizens center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, in every city and municipality of the Philippines, under the ~~[direct]~~ supervision **AND ADMINISTRATION** of the **NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC)** ~~[Department of Social Welfare and Development]~~, hereinafter referred to as the **COMMISSION** ~~[Department]~~, in collaboration with the local government unit concerned."

SEC. 2. Section 5 of the same Act shall be amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. *Functions of the Centers.* — The Centers **SHALL SERVE AS COMMUNITY-BASED FACILITIES FOR THE DELIVERY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS** ~~AND [are extensions of the fourteen (14) regional offices of the Department. They]~~ shall carry out the following functions:

- a. Identify the needs, trainings, and opportunities of senior citizens in the cities and municipalities;

- b. **PLAN** [~~Initiate~~], develop and implement productive activities, **PROGRAMS**, and **SERVICES** [~~work-schemes~~] for senior citizens **THAT PROMOTE THEIR HEALTH, SOCIAL WELFARE, ECONOMIC PRODUCTIVITY, AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION** [~~in order to provide income or otherwise supplement their earnings in the local community~~];
- c. **FACILITATE ACCESS OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE, SOCIAL PROTECTION, AND OTHER RELATED SERVICES**;
- d. **ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN COORDINATION AND LINKAGES WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND PRIVATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICES** [~~Promote and maintain linkages with provincial government units and other instrumentalities of government and the city and municipal councils for the elderly and the Federation of Senior Citizens Association of the Philippines and other non-government organizations for the delivery of health care services, facilities, professional advice services, volunteer training and community self-help projects~~]; and
- e. To exercise such other functions which are necessary to carry out the purpose for which the centers are established."

SEC. 3. Section 6 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 6. *Center Workers*. — The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCSC** [~~Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)~~], **IN COORDINATION WITH THE CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT**, may designate qualified personnel of the **COMMISSION** [~~Department~~] as workers of the Centers: *Provided, [however,]* That the **CHAIRPERSON** [~~Secretary~~] may appoint other **QUALIFIED** personnel **WITH APPROPRIATE** [~~who possess the necessary~~] professional **COMPETENCE** [~~qualifications~~] to work efficiently with the elderly [~~of the~~] community.

The **CHAIRPERSON** [~~Secretary~~] may also call upon private volunteers who are responsible members of the community to provide medical, educational, and other services and facilities for senior citizens."

SEC. 4. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 7. ACCESS TO SERVICES AND REFERRAL MECHANISM. — NO SENIOR CITIZEN SHALL BE DENIED ACCESS TO THE PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND BENEFITS OF

THE CENTER SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF ILLNESS, DISABILITY, MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION, OR OTHER MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCE.

IN CASES WHERE A SENIOR CITIZEN REQUIRES SPECIALIZED MEDICAL ATTENTION, MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION, ISOLATION, SUPERVISION, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE CARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING OF OTHER SENIOR CITIZENS AND CENTER PERSONNEL, THE CENTER, UPON PROPER ASSESSMENT AND IN COORDINATION WITH THE APPROPRIATE HEALTH OR SOCIAL WELFARE AUTHORITIES, SHALL FACILITATE THE REFERRAL OF THE CONCERNED SENIOR CITIZEN TO THE APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCY, HEALTH FACILITY, OR INSTITUTION FOR PROPER TREATMENT, CARE, SUPPORT, OR CONFINEMENT, WHEN NECESSARY.

ANY DETERMINATION REQUIRING TEMPORARY LIMITATION OF PARTICIPATION IN SPECIFIC CENTER ACTIVITIES SHALL BE MADE IN A HUMANE, NON-DISCRIMINATORY, AND RIGHTS-BASED MANNER BY THE NCSC, BASED ON APPROPRIATE MEDICAL OR PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY DULY LICENSED GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS."

SEC. 5. Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 8. *TAX AND DUTY Exemptions of the Center.* - The Center shall be exempted from the payment of customs duties, taxes and tariffs on the importation of equipment and supplies used actually, directly, and exclusively by the Center pursuant to this Act, including those donated to the Center.

THE CENTER SHALL LIKEWISE BE ENTITLED TO THE FIVE PERCENT (5%) DISCOUNT ON ITS MONTHLY CONSUMPTION OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY PURSUANT TO SECTION 4(C) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010," AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS."

SEC 6. Section 9 of the same Act shall be amended to read as follows:

"Section 9. *IMPLEMENTING Rules and Regulations.* - Within NINETY (90) [~~sixty (60)~~] days from the EFFECTIVITY [~~approval~~] of this Act, the NCSC [~~DSWD~~], in coordination with THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND other government agencies concerned, shall PROMULGATE

[issue] the IMPLEMENTING rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.”

~~[Any violation of this section shall render the concerned official(s) liable under Republic Act No. 6713, otherwise known as the “Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees” and other existing administrative and/or criminal laws.]~~

SEC. 7. Section 10 of the same Act shall be amended to read as follows:

“Section 10. *Coordination of Government Agencies.* – The NCSC [DSWD], in coordination with ~~[the Department of Health and]~~ RELEVANT government agencies and local government units, shall assist in the effective implementation of this Act AND THE PROVISION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE CENTERS, and provide the necessary support services THEREFOR.”

SEC. 8. Section 11 of the same Act shall be amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 11. *APPROPRIATIONS.* – THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT UNDER THE BUDGETS OF THE NCSC AND OTHER CONCERNED IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL LIKEWISE ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF THE CENTERS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS, SUBJECT TO NATIONAL STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, AND APPLICABLE BUDGETING LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS.”

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act or any provision herein are hereby modified, amended, or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,