

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9590**



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Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

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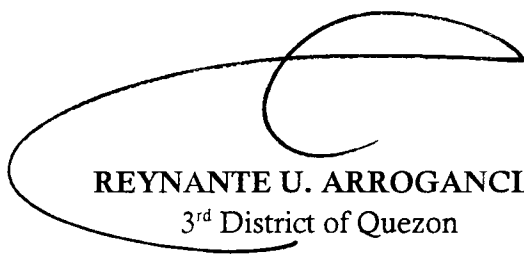
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Pursuant to Section 4, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution, “the family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.”

Although the Filipino culture is deeply rooted in caring for seniors at home, nursing homes act as vital support systems, ensuring that both elderly relatives and their primary caregivers receive essential assistance.

This measure aims to protect and promote the welfare of senior citizens by establishing nursing homes for senior citizens in the provincial and city levels. The provincial and city governments shall establish, operate, and maintain a Public Nursing Home dedicated for their respective constituency – fostering an active and meaningful aging process, ensuring quality residential care and protected living arrangements for the elderly. Furthermore, this measure will prioritize homeless senior citizens with no living relatives, except senior citizens with able-bodied relatives.

Several versions of this bill were filed in the previous Congresses, and it is hoped that this Congress, it will finally be enacted into a law.



**REYNANTE U. ARROGANCIA**  
3<sup>rd</sup> District of Quezon

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING PUBLIC NURSING HOMES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE  
PROVINCIAL AND CITY LEVELS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as the “Senior Citizens Nursing Home  
2 Act.”  
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to recognize the valuable  
5 contributions of senior citizens to national development and to ensure their well-being by  
6 providing access to quality, compassionate, and community-based care. Towards this end,  
7 the State shall establish and support the operation of nursing homes in the provincial and  
8 city levels, particularly for senior citizens who are frail, abandoned, or without adequate  
9 family or community support.

10  
11 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:  
12

- 13 a) *Nursing Home* refers to a residential facility that provides long-term care,  
14 supervision, medical services, and psychosocial support to senior citizens who are  
15 no longer capable of independent living;  
16  
17 b) *Provincial Nursing Homes* refer to facilities located in provincial capitals or other  
18 strategic areas intended to serve senior citizens, particularly those in rural or  
19 underserved areas;  
20  
21 c) *City Nursing Homes* refer to facilities located in component and highly urbanized  
22 cities to serve senior citizens residing in urban and neighboring-rural areas;

- d) *Senior Citizens* refer to persons aged sixty (60) years and above, as defined under Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.”

**SEC. 4. *Establishment of Nursing Homes.*** – Each provincial and city governments shall establish, operate, and maintain a Public Nursing Home dedicated for their respective constituency. These nursing homes shall provide shelter and elderly care, and shall be managed jointly by the local Social Welfare Office and the local Office for Senior Citizen Affairs. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) shall provide technical assistance and supervision in the implementation of this program. It shall provide, but not limited to, the following services:

- a) Residential care and accommodation;
- b) Medical, nursing, palliative, and rehabilitative services;
- c) Psychological, emotional, and social support; and
- d) Recreational, wellness, and community engagement programs.

**SEC. 5. *Bed Capacity Requirement.*** – The bed capacity for each Nursing Home shall be at least proportionate to the size of its population, taking into account their respective aging demography.

**SEC. 6. *Qualified Senior Residents.*** – Senior citizens must undergo proper screening prior to their admission to the nursing home. Priority shall be given to homeless senior citizens with no living relatives. In no case may an able-bodied relative entrust their senior relative to the nursing home.

**SEC. 7. *Standards and Accreditation.*** – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), shall formulate and enforce minimum standards covering physical infrastructure, staffing, service delivery, safety protocols, and administrative management of nursing homes. All nursing homes shall secure accreditation from the DSWD prior to operation and shall be subject to inspection and performance audits at least once every two (2) years.

The DSWD is authorized to impose administrative sanctions, including the suspension or revocation of accreditation, upon any nursing home found to be in violation of the prescribed standards.

The DSWD and DOH shall provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to local government units (LGUs) in the establishment and management of these facilities.

**SEC. 8. *Administration of NHSC.*** – The Office of the City Mayor or Provincial Governor shall have control and supervision over the Nursing Home for Senior Citizens (NHSC).

66 The Office shall appoint a qualified administrator to manage the NHSC. *Provided*, That all  
67 personnel employed in nursing homes, including but not limited to caregivers, nurses,  
68 doctors, and social workers, shall undergo training programs accredited or conducted by  
69 the DSWD and DOH.

70  
71 *Provided further*, That a free Continuing Professional and Staff Development  
72 Program shall be instituted to ensure that nursing home personnel participate in annual  
73 refresher courses, workshops, and seminars on best practices in geriatric care and human  
74 rights-based approaches.

75  
76 **SEC. 9. *Progressive Realization.*** – Within six (6) years from the effectivity of this Act, all  
77 provincial and city governments shall establish at least one (1) fully operational nursing  
78 home for senior citizens in their respective jurisdictions, in accordance with the standards  
79 and guidelines set by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and  
80 the Department of Health (DOH).

81  
82 To facilitate this, the DSWD, in coordination with the DOH, the Department of  
83 Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Commission of Senior Citizens  
84 (NCSC), shall develop a national implementation roadmap detailing timelines, priorities,  
85 resource mobilization strategies, and technical assistance to local government units.

86  
87 The progressive implementation shall give priority to geographically isolated and  
88 disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) and provinces or cities with high populations of indigent or  
89 vulnerable senior citizens.

90  
91 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the  
92 effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with the DOH, the Department of  
93 Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Commission of Senior Citizens  
94 (NCSC), and in consultation with senior citizens' associations, shall promulgate the  
95 necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

96  
97 **SEC. 11. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this  
98 Act shall be sourced from the current year's appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter, such  
99 sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included  
100 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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102 **SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or  
103 invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

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105 **SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or  
106 parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or  
107 amended accordingly.

108 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
109 Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

110

111 *Approved,*