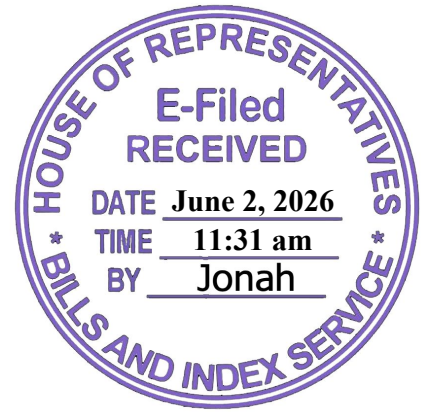


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 9639

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE CASKET AND DISCOUNTS ON FUNERAL SERVICES FOR
INDIGENT AND EXTREMELY POOR FAMILIES, TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipinos are known for their nurturing nature and are admired globally for their respect and compassion especially for the sick family members. Even when family members pass away, their relatives still see to it that the deceased is given a decent funeral and the customary wake.

However, many extremely poor and indigent families had to make difficult choices during their time of loss due to the exorbitant costs of caskets and funeral services. At some point, the bereaved families who are facing financial constraints had to make do with the confined spaces of their homes, available spaces in barangay halls or even the sidewalks in the barangays.

To aid the indigent and extremely poor families, the State shall mandate the local government units to provide free caskets and discounts on funeral services to ensure that those who are financially challenged would still be able to provide dignified burial for their loved ones.

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


CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE BILL NO. 9639

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE CASKET AND DISCOUNTS ON FUNERAL SERVICES FOR
INDIGENT AND EXTREMELY POOR FAMILIES, TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 *Section 1. Short Title .* – This Act shall be known as “Free casket and LGU Funeral Service
2 Discounts Act”

3
4 *Section 2. Declaration of Policies* – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and
5 dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the
6 people through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising
7 standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

8
9 Toward this end, the State shall endeavor to ease the burden of bereaved families especially
10 those belonging to the indigent and extremely poor sectors who are grieving the loss of a loved
11 one through the provision free casket and LGU-funeral discounts on funeral services.

12
13 This Act establishes an LGU-funded assistance mechanism and shall be implemented in
14 coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to prevent
15 duplication with the national free funeral services under Republic Act No. 12309.

16

1 *Section 3. Provision of Free Caskets and Discounts on Funeral Services to the indigent*
2 *and extremely poor families.* – All LGUs are hereby mandated to provide free caskets and
3 discounts on funeral services to qualified indigent and extremely poor families through the Local
4 Social Welfare and Development Office (LSWDOs).

5
6 (A) Free Casket

7 To avail of the free casket, claimant-relative of the decedent must submit the following
8 requirements to their respective LSWDO:

- 9
10 1. Copy of the Contract / Service Agreement with Funeral Parlor indicating the
11 provision of free casket;
12 2. Copy of the Death Certificate issued by the hospital or the city/municipal health
13 office; or certification from the tribal chieftain, as applicable;
14 3. Certificate of indigency;
15 4. Photocopy of valid ID of the deceased and the claimant; and
16 5. Social case study / social care study prepared and issued by any registered Social
17 Worker of the LSWDO.

18
19 (B) Discounts on Funeral Services

20 For Discounts on Funeral Services, claimant-relative of the decedent must present the
21 following documents to the LSWDO:

- 22
23 1. Copy of the Contract with the Funeral Parlor indicating the cost of funeral service
24 availed by the relatives of the deceased;
25 2. Copy of the Death Certificate issued by the hospital or the city/municipal health
26 office; or certification from the tribal chieftain, as applicable;
27 3. Certificate of indigency
28 4. Photocopy of valid ID of the deceased and claimant.
29 5. Social case study / social care study prepared and issued by any registered Social
30 Worker of the LSWDO.

31
32 The “discount” under this Act shall be funded by the LGU and may be implemented
33 through any of the following mechanisms to be detailed in the Implementing Rules and
34 Regulations (i) guarantee letter or voucher system, (ii) direct payment to the funeral
35 establishment, or (iii) reimbursement to the claimant upon submission of official receipts,
36 subject to ceilings and controls.

37
38 *Section 4. Appropriations.* – To carry out the provision of this Act, LGUs shall appropriate
39 in their annual budget such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal year.

1 *Section 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the
2 effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Social Welfare and Development in coordination
3 with Local Government Units, concerned government agencies, and stakeholders, shall
4 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of this
5 Act.

6 *Section 6. Acts and Penalties.* –

7 (a) Any person who fraudulently avails or facilitates availment of benefits under this Act
8 through false representation, document falsification, or collusion shall be penalized under
9 applicable penal laws, without prejudice to administrative liability and refund of amounts
10 improperly received.

11
12 (b) Any funeral establishment that participates in LGU-funded discount mechanisms and
13 is found to have engaged in overpricing, falsification, or billing fraud may be suspended or
14 disqualified from participation, without prejudice to other sanctions under existing laws and local
15 ordinances.

16
17 *Section 7. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
18 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

19
20 *Section 8. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts
21 thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
22 accordingly.

23
24 *Section 9. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

26
27 Approved,