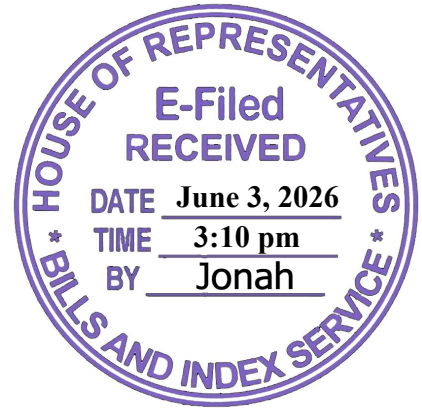


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9722



Introduced by Representative Kenneth T. Gatchalian

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino culture has long upheld the value of caring for the elderly within the family. However, cases of abandonment and neglect of senior citizens are increasing due to financial constraints, family conflicts, and the inability of caregivers to provide adequate support.

Some local government units have taken steps to address this gap. In Valenzuela City, facilities such as *Bahay Kalinga* and *Bahay Kanlungan Tahanan nina Lolo at Lola* provide shelter, healthcare, and daily support for homeless and abandoned senior citizens. Despite these efforts, such facilities remain limited, leaving many elderly Filipinos without proper care and protection.

Aligned with the State's duty to protect the welfare of senior citizens, this bill seeks to institutionalize a nationwide framework for the establishment of nursing homes for homeless and abandoned elderly in every city and municipality. These facilities shall be constructed by local government units and operated and maintained by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in coordination with LGUs.

This measure complements Republic Act No. 7876, or the "Senior Citizens Center Act," by ensuring that vulnerable elderly individuals not only have access to community programs, but also to residential care when family support is no longer available.

By strengthening institutional support and expanding access to care facilities, this bill aims to uphold the dignity and welfare of senior citizens, particularly those most in need.

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



KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 9722

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NURSING HOME FOR HOMELESS AND
ABANDONED SENIOR CITIZENS IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY IN
THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
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 the “Homes for
2 Abandoned Seniors Act”.

3 **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the
4 State to value the dignity of every human person, guarantee full respect for human
5 rights, extend assistance to its elderly citizens through programs of social security,
6 and promote the right to health and safety of senior citizens. Towards this end, the
7 State shall extend assistance to abandoned and homeless senior citizens through a
8 social care and security program.

9 **SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms
10 shall mean:

- 1 (a) *Abandoned Senior Citizen* refers to a senior citizen who has no means of
2 meeting basic needs, or whose family had deserted them and as, such,
3 appropriate care, protection and support are not met;
- 4 (b) *Homeless Senior Citizen* refers to a senior citizen who lacks a fixed,
5 regular, and adequate residence, or who resides in a place unfit for
6 human habitation, or who lacks the means and resources to obtain
7 secure, safe, and proper permanent housing;
- 8 (c) *Nursing Home* refers to a home for the elderly persons, established and
9 maintained under this Act by a city or municipality, which provides
10 living accommodations and support services. These include food and
11 clothing, medical and health care, as well as recreational and social
12 interaction activities. It primarily serves abandoned senior citizens who
13 lack family support or homeless senior citizens;
- 14 (d) *Senior Citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least
15 sixty (60) years of age.

16 **SEC. 4.** *Establishment of Nursing Homes.* – A nursing home shall be
17 established in every municipality and city to provide care for abandoned and
18 homeless senior citizens. The facilities shall be constructed by the respective local
19 government units (LGUs) and shall be operated and maintained by the Department
20 of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the concerned
21 LGUs.

22 **SEC. 5.** *Functions of Nursing Homes.* – The nursing homes established
23 under this Act shall provide institutionalized residential care programs and services
24 to homeless or abandoned senior citizens within their territorial jurisdiction. These
25 services shall include but not be limited to the following:

- 26 (a) Comfortable and safe living accommodation;
27 (b) Adequate food and appropriate clothing;
28 (c) Access to medical consultation and or necessary treatment;

- (d) Health care services;
- (e) Occupational opportunities;
- (f) Recreational and social interaction activities;
- (g) Counseling services;
- (h) Case conference;
- (i) Facilitation of family dialogue sessions;
- (j) Outreach to existing family members for reintegration;
- (k) Literacy and continuing education program;
- (l) Skills and productivity development activity; and
- (m) Religious, cultural and vocational enrichment program/activities.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DSWD, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Health (DOH), the Federation of Senior Citizens Associations of the Philippines (FSCAP), and the Confederation of Older Persons Associations of the Philippines (COPAP), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions this Act, not later than ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 7. *Exemptions of the Nursing Home.* – The established nursing home shall be exempt from the payment of customs duties, taxes, and tariffs on the importation of equipment and supplies that are actually, directly, and exclusively used for the operation of the nursing home pursuant to this Act, including items donated to the nursing home for such purpose.

SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
2 orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof contrary
3 to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 11. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the
6 Philippines.

7
8 *Approved,*