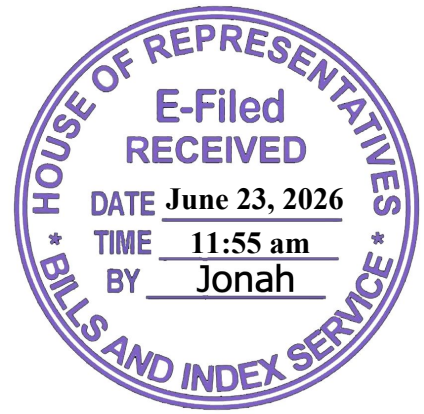


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9925**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate the establishment of public crematoriums in all cities and municipalities across the Philippines. It amends Section 17 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7160, otherwise known as the *"Local Government Code of 1991"*, to include public crematoriums among the basic facilities and services that local government units must provide. This provides for a dignified, affordable and accessible alternative to traditional burial services while ensuring free cremation services for indigent families.

Public cemeteries throughout the country are currently experiencing congestion, while the rising cost of funeral and burial services places financial burden on many Filipino families. Although cremation has emerged as a practical and space-efficient alternative, its use remains largely dependent on private facilities whose services are often beyond the means of low-income households. The absence of government-operated and maintained crematoriums limits affordable options and compels many families to incur debts during periods of bereavement.

This measure strengthens the capacity of cities and municipalities to deliver essential funeral services, improve land use management, and promote public health and social welfare.

To safeguard public health and environmental integrity, all public crematoriums shall comply with the requirements of Presidential Decree No. 856, otherwise known as the *"Code on Sanitation of the Philippines"*, and RA No. 8749, otherwise known as the *"Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999"*.

This bill offers a sustainable solution to urban congestion and alleviates the financial distress of bereaved Filipino families. It ensures that even in death, all citizens are afforded dignity without placing an economic burden on those they leave behind.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
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House Bill No. **9925**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC CREMATORIUMS IN CITIES
AND MUNICIPALITIES, PROVIDING FREE CREMATION SERVICES TO
INDIGENT FAMILIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 17 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Public Crematorium Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby the declared policy of the State to promote social justice and protect the welfare of the people by ensuring access to affordable, dignified, and environmentally sound cremation services. Toward this end, the State shall support local government units (LGUs) in the establishment and operation of public crematoriums and provide free cremation services to indigent families.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

a. Crematorium refers to a designated place duly authorized by law to cremate dead persons; and

b. Indigent refers to a person who has no visible means of support or whose income falls below the minimum wage in the region, as determined by the Regional Tripartite Wage Board; or whose income falls within the minimum wage but has two (2) other persons dependent upon him or her for support.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of Public Crematoriums.* – Section 17 (b)(2)(x) of Republic No. 7160, otherwise known as the “*Local Government Code of 1991*”, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 17. *Basic Services and Facilities.* –

“(a) x x x

“(b) Such basic services and facilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

“(1) x x x

“(2) For a Municipality:

“x x x

“(x) Public cemeter[y]IES AND PUBLIC
CREMATORIALS;

“x x x

“x x x

“x x x.”

SEC. 5. *Regulatory Compliance.* – The design, construction, technical requirements, sanitary certification, operation, and maintenance of public crematoriums, as well as the handling of dead bodies, shall be in compliance with Presidential Decree No. 856, otherwise known as the “Code on Sanitation of the Philippines”, and Republic Act (RA) No. 8749, otherwise known as the “Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999”, and their respective implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 6. *Anti-Pollution Measures.* – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), shall issue the necessary guidelines and practices promoting anti-pollution measures such as, but not limited to, installation of filter systems and similar pollution control devices, designation of pollution officers, neutralization of pollutants and toxic wastes, reduction of particulate matter, more efficient use of fuel and energy, adequate controls on emission levels, among others.

SEC. 7. *Coverage.* – Free cremation services under this Act shall be available to indigent families, as certified by the city or municipal social welfare and development office, in accordance with existing laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Provision of Free Cremation Services for Indigents.* – Notwithstanding any provision of law, decedents belonging to indigent families, as determined by the city or municipal social welfare and development office, shall be entitled to free cremation services in public crematoriums established under this Act. The local city or municipal health officer shall duly record and maintain a registry of cremations performed in public crematoriums.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations* – The establishment, operation, maintenance, and improvement of public crematoriums shall be funded from the local funds of the concerned LGUs, including their respective shares from national taxes and other available local revenues, in accordance with Section 17(g) of RA No. 7160, as amended.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of laws and rules inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,