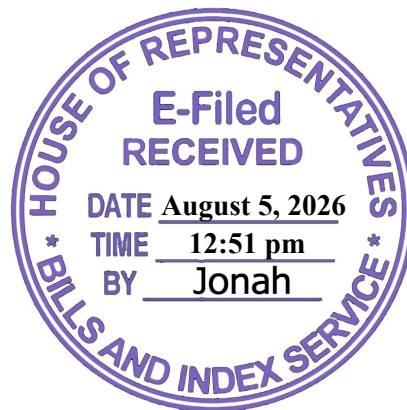




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10626



Introduced by Representative Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 The Philippines is undergoing a profound demographic transition. Improvements in
2 healthcare, nutrition, and living conditions have steadily increased life expectancy, resulting in a
3 rapidly expanding senior citizen population. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA),
4 there were approximately 11.42 million Filipinos aged 60 years and above in 2024, accounting for
5 10.2% of the country's household population. This marks a substantial increase from 9.22 million
6 senior citizens, or 8.5% of the household population, in 2020, reflecting the steady growth of the
7 country's elderly population. As the nation ages, the demand for accessible, responsive, and
8 community-based government services for senior citizens likewise continues to grow.

9 The Constitution mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to
10 health and social welfare by recognizing the invaluable contributions of older persons to nation-
11 building. Currently, Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the *Expanded Senior Citizens Act*
12 *of 2010* does exactly that by granting Filipino senior citizens a broad range of privileges, discounts,
13 and protections. However, despite these legal safeguards, many elderly Filipinos continue to
14 experience difficulty in accessing government services and enforcing their rights.

15 Numerous senior citizens, especially those living in rural communities and urban poor areas,
16 remain unaware of the full extent of the benefits available to them or encounter significant obstacles
17 in reporting violations of their rights. Complaints involving denial of statutory discounts and
18 privileges, elder abuse, neglect, abandonment, financial exploitation, and family neglect often go
19 unreported because of limited mobility, lack of legal knowledge, fear of retaliation, or the absence
20 of an accessible government office where they may seek immediate assistance.

21 At present, while every local government unit is mandated to establish an Office for Senior
22 Citizens Affairs (OSCA), these offices are generally located at the city or municipal level. For many
23 elderly citizens, especially those with mobility limitations or chronic illnesses, traveling to these
24 offices entails considerable financial cost, physical hardship, and logistical difficulty. As a result,
25 many grievances remain unresolved, and government interventions often come too late.

26 This measure therefore seeks to establish a **Senior Citizens' Welfare Desk in every**
27 **barangay** to serve as the first point of contact for elderly Filipinos seeking assistance, filing
28 complaints, reporting abuse or neglect, obtaining information on their rights and benefits, and
29 securing referrals to the appropriate government agencies or the Lupong Tagapamayapa when
30 necessary. Barangays already serve as the government's frontline institutions and are uniquely
31 positioned to provide immediate, community-based assistance.

Existing laws have already recognized the effectiveness of specialized barangay mechanisms, such as the Violence Against Women (VAW) Desk, in ensuring that vulnerable sectors receive prompt attention, proper referrals, and continuous monitoring of their cases. A similar institutional mechanism dedicated to senior citizens would strengthen grassroots governance and make government services more responsive to the realities faced by the country's aging population.

By bringing government services closer to where senior citizens live, this measure promotes accessibility, strengthens local governance, encourages early intervention in cases involving elder abuse and neglect, and reinforces the State's constitutional obligation to protect the dignity, welfare, and well-being of older persons. More importantly, it affirms that as Filipinos age, they should not face additional barriers in accessing the protection, assistance, and respect that they have earned through a lifetime of contributing to the Filipino people and the Philippine society.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Garcia", is written on a light pink rectangular background.



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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A SENIOR CITIZENS' WELFARE DESK IN EVERY BARANGAY

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 "Senior Citizens' Welfare Desk Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the duty of the State to give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of Philippine society. The government must implement community-based programs that reach to the grassroots level and provide easy accessibility for our elderly to ensure genuine protection of their rights and welfare.

Sec. 3. Senior Citizens' Welfare Desk. – There shall hereby be established in every barangay a Senior Citizens' Welfare Desk through which all senior citizens may lodge complaints, make inquiries, or ask for any form of assistance and aid, on issues concerning them, including but not limited to the following:

- a) Violations of their benefits and privileges under existing laws, ordinances, rules and regulations;
- b) Cases of abuse, discrimination or maltreatment;
- c) Abandonment and withdrawal of support from their family or relatives; and
- d) Grievances and complaints, in general.

The barangay official/s assigned to the Welfare Desk shall assist the senior citizen in referring, bringing up or presenting his/her case, complaint or issue to the proper government office or to the Lupong Tagapamayapa, if warranted. Each Welfare Desk shall set up a system for the proper monitoring and following up of the cases, complaints or issues received by them and shall regularly provide feedback and updates to the senior citizen concerned.

Sec. 4. Training of Welfare Desk Officials. – The corresponding Office of Senior Citizens Affairs of the city or municipality shall provide the necessary and regular training and guidance to the barangay officials assigned to their respective Welfare Desks on the handling and responding to complaints and grievances, procedures for referral to different government offices, and information dissemination on the various rights and benefits of senior citizens.

Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Commission on Senior Citizens in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government and other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

1 **Sec. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules
2 and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
3 repealed or modified accordingly.

4 **Sec. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any
5 person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be
6 affected thereby.

7 **Sec. 8. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the
8 Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

9 **Approved,**