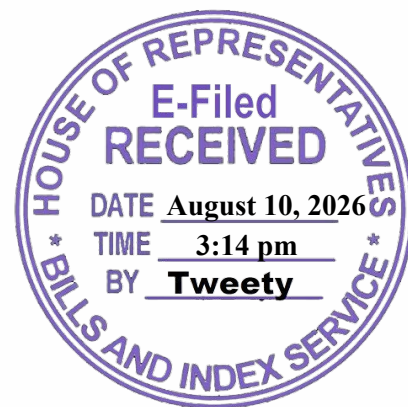


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10684

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NURSING HOME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS IN EVERY
REGION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is steadily moving toward an aging society, with its senior citizen population projected to reach more than 11 million in 2025. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the country's elderly population is expected to double between 2035 and 2040¹. This demographic shift underscores the urgent need for stronger, more responsive, and sustainable government programs that uphold the health, dignity, welfare, and overall well-being of older Filipinos.

Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that enhances the quality of life of all Filipinos. Complementing this mandate, Article XV, Section 4 recognizes that while the family has the primary duty to care for its elderly members, the State may likewise provide support through just programs of social security and other appropriate interventions.

In fulfillment of these constitutional mandates, Congress enacted Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, which broadened the rights, privileges, and benefits of senior citizens by enhancing discounts, tax exemptions, healthcare assistance, and other forms of social protection. It also enacted Republic Act No. 11350, or the National Commission of Senior Citizens Act, which institutionalized a dedicated government

¹ <https://www.pria.gov.ph/articles/1266269>

agency to formulate and implement programs for the welfare of senior citizens, and Republic Act No. 11916, which increased the monthly social pension of indigent senior citizens. While these landmark laws have significantly strengthened the country's social protection framework for older persons, the Longitudinal Study of Aging and Health in the Philippines found that many senior citizens remain unaware of the benefits and services available to them, limiting the full realization of these legislative measures². Moreover, an ³article stated a gradual decline in traditional Filipino caregiving practices toward older family members, as reflected in increasing reports of elder abandonment and abuse, as well as the emergence of negative perceptions and attitudes toward aging. These developments underscore the need to complement existing social protection measures with accessible institutional care services for senior citizens who are neglected, abandoned, or no longer able to receive adequate care within their families.

At the same time, the growing demand for institutional long-term care has become increasingly evident. Many senior citizens suffer from chronic illnesses, disabilities, dementia, and other age-related conditions that require continuous professional care and specialized support. Others are left without adequate family caregivers due to poverty, migration, changing family structures, or other socio-economic circumstances. These realities have exposed the limited availability of accessible, affordable, and quality residential care facilities for elderly Filipinos who can no longer be adequately cared for at home. Recognizing this pressing need, the National Commission of Senior Citizens has expressed support for measures establishing government-operated nursing homes to provide dignified, accessible, and affordable long-term care services.

This bill seeks to establish a Nursing Home for Senior Citizens in every region of the country under the management and supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. These facilities shall provide quality residential, nursing, medical, rehabilitative, and psychosocial services, ensuring that elderly Filipinos requiring long-term institutional care receive comprehensive, compassionate, and person-centered support in a safe and dignified environment.

² <https://upd.edu.ph/better-care-for-aging-pinoy-population/>

³ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11413454/>

The passage of this measure will further strengthen the State's commitment to protecting the rights, welfare, and dignity of senior citizens. It will complement existing social protection laws by expanding access to quality long-term care services and ensuring that every elderly Filipino who can no longer be adequately supported through family-based care has access to compassionate, professional, and government-assisted institutional care.

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



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI

Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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REGION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - The Act shall be known as the "Nursing Home for Senior Citizens
2 (NHSC) Act."
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic
5 social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people
6 from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment,
7 a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.
8

9 While the family has the duty to care for its elderly members, the State may also do so through
10 just programs of social security. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide nursing
11 homes for senior citizens in every city and municipality in the country with quality and
12 affordable care and nursing facilities for elderly Filipinos.
13

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

15 (a) Care refers to the fulfillment of the special needs and requirements of the senior
16 citizens;

17 (b) Nursing Home for Senior Citizens refers to the place and facilities designed to
18 provide skilled care to the elderly, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a

week; and

(c) Senior Citizen refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of Nursing Home for Senior Citizens.* — There shall be established a Nursing Home for Senior Citizens in every region to be managed and operated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

SEC. 5. *Services of NHSC.* - The NHSC shall provide senior citizens with the 13 following services:

- a. Comfortable living spaces;
- b. Adequate food and clothing;
- c. Personal and custodial care;
- d. Medical consultation, treatment, and monitoring;
- e. Health care;
- f. Social and recreational activities;
- g. Occupational opportunities;
- h. Counselling
- i. Family dialogue;
- j. Case conferences;
- k. Literacy education;
- l. Religious, cultural, and vocational activities; and
- m. Such other similar services.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DSWD, National Commission of Senior Citizens and other concerned agencies and entities, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act not later than ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

SEC. 7. *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.

1 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - In the event any provision of this Act or the application of such
2 provision is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of the said provision
3 shall not be affected thereby.

4
5 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
6 regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
7 repealed or amended accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
10 Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

11
12 *Approved,*