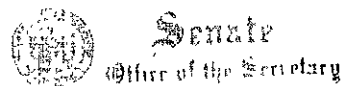



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



'11 AUG 23 P3:14

SENATE
S.B. No. 2950

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

We Filipinos are known for the unrequited care we give our elderly. In fact, this customary practice is one attribute that sets us apart from other cultures. Sadly, this generosity is oftentimes extended only to members of our own families. Thus, those who have been abandoned and neglected by their loved ones find themselves unattended and helpless in their advance age.

The State, as *parens patriae*, should take an active role in alleviating the plight of our senior citizens, especially the unwanted and deserted. Not only is this consistent with our deeply rooted values, but more so, is a visible testament to our government's commitment to alleviate the living conditions of all our citizens, both young and old alike. Nevertheless, we can only be truly effective in this effort if we can give our senior citizens long term care and services.

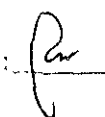
This is precisely what this Bill seeks to achieve. Hence, by formulating a national long term care program for senior citizens, it is hoped that the government and its vital agencies can become more efficient in combating the problems confronting our senior citizens and ultimately, help fulfill its promise of securing for our people a prosperous life.

In view of the paramount significance of this Bill, its passage is most earnestly sought.


MANNY VILLAR

'11 AUG 23 P3:14

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING LONG-TERM CARE
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, PROVIDING 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. Title.** This Act shall be known as "The Long-Term Care for
2 Senior Citizens Act of 2011."
3

4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies.** The State recognizes the invaluable
5 contribution of senior citizens to the national development program. Accordingly,
6 it is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide adequate and effective
7 social services to all members of society especially senior citizens so they may
8 live prosperously and enjoy the fruits of their labor. For this purpose, the State
9 undertakes to establish and initiate programs as well as to support endeavors
10 aimed at promoting and advancing the social and economic well being of senior
11 citizens.
12

13 **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Act, the following
14 terms shall be construed to mean as follows:
15

16 a. A "senior citizen" refers to any person as defined in
17 Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7876, otherwise known as the Senior
18 Citizen Center Act.

19 b. Long-term care refers to a sustained provision of
20 comprehensive programs and services to Senior Citizens with the
21 view of enabling them to have dignified, healthy and secured lives.
22

23 c. Dependent senior citizen refers to those persons who
24 are either frail, sickly, suffering from any disability, and has no other
25 means to support his/her basic needs.
26

27 **SECTION 4. National Long-term Care Program Framework.** A national long-
28 term care program for senior citizens is hereby established which shall embody
29 the following core programs and/or services, among others:
30

31 a. **Social Protection** shall cover programs which seek
32 to reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks and enhance the social

1 status and rights of senior citizens by promoting and protecting
2 them against hazards and sudden loss of income and improving
3 senior citizens' capacity to manage risk.
4

5 a.1. Social Welfare. Curative and preventive
6 interventions that seek to support the special needs of
7 Senior Citizens and to reduce risks associated with
8 old age shall be provided. These shall include
9 activities aimed at protecting senior citizens from
10 abuse, exploitation and discrimination. Moreover,
11 prevention and provision of support services against
12 physical, emotional and financial abuse, sexual
13 exploitation, neglect and abandonment of senior
14 citizens shall be established within the family and at
15 the community level. Towards this end, trainings and
16 awareness campaigns shall be initiated to raise the
17 public's awareness of the problems confronting senior
18 citizens and to equip the public with the necessary
19 know-how to prevent and detection problem areas
20 concerning senior citizens.
21

22 a.2. Livelihood/Job Generation Program.
23 Senior citizens shall be specifically targeted in
24 livelihood programs and other poverty alleviation
25 programs. Further, livelihood programs shall
26 guarantee a minimum income and shall be designed
27 in a manner that increases senior citizens'
28 productivity.
29

30 a.3. Social Insurance. Existing social insurance
31 programs shall be modified and expanded to
32 guarantee that senior citizens shall be adequately
33 protected from loss of income and unemployment as
34 a result of old age. Economic and financial support
35 through other innovative social insurance and pension
36 schemes especially designed for families caring for
37 dependents/disabled senior citizens shall likewise be
38 endeavored.
39

40 a.4. Social Safety Nets. Stop-gap mechanisms
41 or urgent and immediate responses shall be instituted
42 to shield senior citizens from vulnerabilities arising
43 from disasters, emergency and displacement due to
44 development projects, natural and man-made
45 calamities.
46

47 b. **Senior Citizens and Development.** This shall
48 include mainstreaming activities such as lifelong education
49 programs for ageing preparation and non-formal education at the
50 local level for those sixty (60) years old and above and
51 development of programs which will allow senior citizens to remain
52 actively engaged in as many social, economic and community
53 activities as possible.
54

55 c. **Advancing Health and Well-being.** An integrated
56 and innovative elderly-focused health and social services shall be
57 made available at the local level. Particular emphasis shall be

1 made on disease prevention, health promotion and wellness of
2 mind, body and spirit. Health services shall comprise preventive,
3 curative and rehabilitative health care services in all government
4 and private hospitals, local health facilities and other community-
5 based facilities. The said program shall contemplate the following,
6 among others:
7

8 c.1. Homecare and hospice for the frail and
9 dependent elderly and medical and psychological
10 support for patients requiring continued medical
11 assistance after discharge.
12

13 c.2. Development and provision of geriatric
14 training at the family and community level.
15

16 c.3. Mandatory PHILHEALTH coverage for
17 non-contributory senior citizens especially the poor.
18

19 d. **Enabling and Supportive Environment.** Provision of
20 home nursing for the elderly, facilities for respite care, programs on
21 counseling, professional guidance and emotional support and low-
22 cost, community-based activities integrated into existing community
23 health programs as well as strengthening of inter-generational
24 relationships.
25

26 Nothing above prevents the agencies tasked to implement the provisions
27 of this Act from introducing other social services and programs designed to
28 promote the National Long-Term Care Program for senior citizens.
29

30 **SECTION 5. Implementing Agencies.** The National Long-Term Care Program
31 for Senior Citizens shall be implemented jointly by the Department of Finance,
32 Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Government, the various
33 local government units and the Department of Social Welfare and Development
34 (DSWD). The National Inter-Agency Monitoring Board created under Republic
35 Act No. 9257 otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens act shall take
36 the lead in monitoring the implementation of this Act.
37

38 **SECTION 6. Appropriation.** The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
39 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year
40 following its enactment into law and thereafter the local government units shall
41 undertake the maintenance of the institutions established under this Act.
42

43 **SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within ninety ((90) days
44 from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and
45 Development, after due consultations with the other implementing agencies, shall
46 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations necessary for the orderly
47 implementation of this Act.
48

49 **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** If any part of this Act is declared
50 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall
51 continue to be in full force and effect.
52

53 **SECTION 9. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, rules and regulations or
54 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended
55 accordingly.
56

1 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
3 general circulation.

4
5
6 *Approved,*
7
8
9