

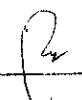
FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session



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**SENATE**

S. No. 2734

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The state of Philippine health care poses seemingly unending problems of lack of well-equipped facilities and inadequately-manned hospitals and centers brought about by the perennial problem of scarcity of funds. Because of this problem, a significant number of ill and aging members of the population, remain untreated, or at the very least, are left to endure the rest of their days without even a check-up from medical professionals.

To make matters even more depressing, a number of these *lolos* and *lolas*, as they are fondly called in our native language, are left by their own families in the streets, forcing them to fend for themselves, leaving them with no food, shelter and other basic necessities. At their old age, they are left to beg for money to buy food, and to seek for temporary shelter in times of heavy rain or during the cold season.

As Filipinos, we have been raised in a culture which gives much importance to indigenous values such as *pakikipagkapwa-tao*, which is the regard for the dignity of other people. Moreover, our culture instills in each and every one of us a strong sense of family, particularly a high regard for our elders.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, towards this end, has spearheaded the establishment of the Haven for the Elderly (formerly known as Golden Acres) in Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal. The Haven for the Elderly is a government-run residential care facility which takes care of the neglected, abandoned and homeless elderly members of society. Two other similar facilities may be found in Zamboanga City in Region IX and in Davao Oriental in Region XI.

Each center provides a number of abandoned and homeless elderly with comfortable living quarters, adequate food, clothing, occupational and recreational activities, rehabilitation, medical consultation and treatment, and opportunities for social interaction and relaxation.

Every abandoned and homeless elderly deserves to be afforded the opportunity to live the most normal life possible, and these centers offer them the opportunity of living a decent life

where their most basic necessities are met.

Article 2, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides:

Sec. 2. The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

Moreover, Article 15, Section 4, provides:

Sec. 4. The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.

This bill seeks to establish a home for the elderly in every region, facilities that would cater to abandoned and homeless older persons, to be operated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

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



**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator*

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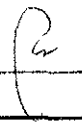


Senate  
Office of the Secretary

11 MAR -7 P 2:38

**SENATE**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY IN EVERY REGION,**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Neglected, Abandoned and Homeless Elderly Assistance Act of 2011".

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to: (1) value the dignity of every human person, (2) guarantee full respect for human rights, (3) extend assistance to its elderly members through just programs of social security, and (4) protect and promote the right to health and safety of the elderly.

**SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. "Elder" refers to an individual age 60 or older
- b. "DSWD" shall refer to the Department of Social Welfare and Development
- c. "Philhealth" shall refer to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation

**SECTION 4. Center for the Elderly.** There shall be established seventeen (17) Centers for the Elderly, one (1) in every region to be operated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, to include the National Capital Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, SOCCSKSARGEN, Caraga Region, and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

**SECTION 5.** Each Center for the Elderly shall provide a number of abandoned and homeless elderly with comfortable living quarters, adequate food, clothing, occupational and recreational activities, rehabilitation, medical consultation and treatment, and opportunities for social interaction and relaxation.

**SECTION 6.** *Sources of Funds and Method of Collection.* The funds to be used for the construction, maintenance and miscellaneous expenses for operation of these centers shall be sourced out from the following agencies, but not limited to:

- a) Not less than one percent (1%) of the annual revenue collected by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
- b) Any other appropriations from the General Appropriations Act; and
- c) Donations and grants from domestic and international sources duly accepted/approved by the DSWD which do not constitute a breach of Philippines laws and recognized international treaties.

**SECTION 7.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* As the lead agency, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act not later than 120 days after its passage into law.

**SECTION 8.** *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

**SECTION 9.** *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 10.** *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,