


NOV 11 2013

**SENATE**

S. No. 3520

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XV, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development. Moreover, Article XV, Section 4 of said Constitution provides that the family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security. As such, it is our duty as a nation to protect and promote the welfare of the aging population in our country.

According to the National Statistics Office, the total number of Senior Citizens (60 years old and above) is 4,565,560 as of 2009. This number comprises 5.97 % of the total Philippine population. However, current realities in our country have begun to challenge the capacity of our traditional families to care and promote the welfare of our aging population. Data indicate that one in every 20 elderly in our country is a victim of neglect or physical or psychological abuse this year. As elders become more physically frail, they are less able to stand up to bullying or to fight back if attacked.

Today, there are elderly in our community without any means of support and sustenance, living the life of quiet desperation. They may have been left without any family members to depend on. Many have been frowned upon by circumstances and have been left with no financial means. They may have been disabled by disease or accidents. Indigent, sick and alone, many of the elderly are weak and vulnerable as they stand today.

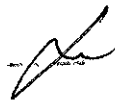
This proposed measure seeks to establish the Institute for Aging. The Institute shall be established as an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) whose purpose is to advance the scientific understanding and knowledge on the phenomenon of aging and to help alleviate the social and wellbeing of the elderly sector in our society through research, information, education and advocacy. The Institute shall help contribute to the scholarly and social understanding of the human condition on the phenomenon of aging in our country.

In recognition of the well-entrenched Filipino practice of taking care of the senior members of society, the early passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

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

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE FOR AGING,**  
**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 *"Institute for Aging Act of 2009."*

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. -** It is hereby declared policy of the State to be cognizant of the concerns and issues faced by the aging population in our country. As such, the State shall protect the welfare of the elderly and promote holistic research, information drive and comprehensive data banking in order to mainstream and sensitize the general public on the need to respond to the concerns of the elderly sector in our society.

**SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. -** For purposes of this Act the term "elderly" refers to any male or female, 60 years old and above.

**SEC. 4. Establishment of an Institute for the Elderly. -** There is hereby established an institute for the elderly to be named "Institute for Aging", hereinafter referred to as the "Institute", which shall conduct comprehensive research, education and training opportunities to the elderly sector in our society.

The Institute shall be established as an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). It shall advance the scientific understanding and knowledge on aging and help alleviate the social and

wellbeing of the elderly sector through research, information, education and advocacy.

The objective of the Institute is to contribute to the scholarly and social understanding of the human condition on the phenomenon of aging in our society.

Towards this end, the Institute shall perform the following functions:

1. To facilitate and support interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and international research and training activities to advance our knowledge and understanding on the issues concerning aging and the elderly sector in our society;
2. To disseminate scientifically validated and verified educational resources on the issues concerning aging and the elderly sector in our society;
3. To raise the awareness on issues of public concern related to aging and the elderly sector in our society;
4. To provide a forum and venue for researchers, professionals, policy makers, health providers, local government officials and various stakeholders to exchange information and knowledge concerning the issues on aging in our country;
5. To provide forum for discussion of educational and modern techniques and methods in relation to addressing the problems faced by the elderly population in our country;
6. To promote a continuing information, education and communication (IEC) campaigns in order to sensitized the general public on the needs and concerns of the aging population in our country;
7. To publish and disseminate information, education, communication and training materials concerning issues on aging in our country; and
8. To perform such other functions as mandated for under this Act.

**SEC. 5. *Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign on Aging in our Country.*** - The Institute, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Philippine Information Agency (PIA), shall conduct a year-round information, education and communication (IEC) campaign to inform and educate policy makers, health providers, care givers and various stakeholders involved in providing health intervention programs for the elderly.

Among the activities and programs to be undertaken in the IEC Campaign shall include the following:

1. The Institute shall provide scholarly information on issues related to aging and the elderly sector.
2. The Institute shall publish additional resources which will include series of topical articles on aging, educational materials and educational posters. The Institute shall also provide translations into various local language and easy-to-print formats to inform the general of the advocacies and concerns of the elderly population in our country.

**SEC. 6. *Annual Conference on Aging.*** – The Institute, in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd) and Philippine Information Agency (PIA), is hereby mandated to conduct an Annual National Conference on Aging which will be participated by policy makers, researchers, health providers, local government officials and experts in the field of aging, demographics and social science in order to promote awareness and information exchange on the issues concerning aging and the elderly sector.

The Annual National Conference on Aging is envisioned to be an avenue where experts of various academic disciplines will share their knowledge on the issues faced by the elderly sector.

The annual conference will discuss and review the various research and development efforts of various multidisciplinary institutions. The proceedings shall be published and be made available to the public .

**SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be incorporated in the annual general appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

**SEC. 8 *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within ninety (90) days from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Department of Education (DepEd), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

**SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** - If for any reason any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 11. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general application.

**Approved,**