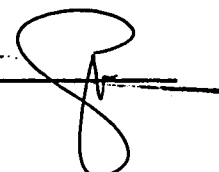


SENATE

20 JUL -8 A11 :55

S. No. 1678

RECORDED



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SENIOR CITIZENS' WELFARE DESK IN EVERY BARANGAY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior citizens form an integral part of Philippine society. Through their wisdom and experience, they provide immeasurable contributions to nation-building and to the communities where they belong. In recognition of this, our government has enacted various laws giving a myriad of benefits, privileges and protection measures for our elderly. Foremost of these pieces of legislation is Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010. One of the important features of this law is the creation of the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) in all cities and municipalities. The OSCA is tasked, among other powers, to serve as a general information and liaison center for senior citizens, monitor compliance on the grant of special discounts and privileges to senior citizens, to report violation of the act to the mayor and to assist the senior citizens in filing complaints or charges against violating individuals and entities. It is laudable for R.A. No. 9994 to mandate the establishment of these local offices specially catering to the needs of our senior citizens, However, for some of our elderly, a trip to the city or municipal hall where the OSCA is usually situated is too burdensome and risky, due to a variety of factors, e.g. illness, weak physical condition, or distance of their residences to the city or municipal center or *poblacion*, especially if they live in remote mountainous or island barangays.

This bill aims to address this accessibility problem by further cascading the services of the OSCA to the grassroots barangay-level. Under this proposed measure, 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. Through this, our senior citizens will no longer have to travel all the way to the city or municipal center just for them to bring up their complaints and grievances or to report instances of abandonment, abuse, discrimination or maltreatment. To ensure the barangay officials staffing these Welfare Desks are properly prepared and acquainted with their duties and responsibilities, the corresponding Office of Senior Citizens Affairs of the city or municipality shall provide the necessary and regular training and guidance to them.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.



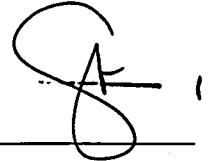
MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

SENATE

20 JUL -8 A11 :55

S. No. 1678

RECEIVED



Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A SENIOR CITIZENS' WELFARE DESK IN EVERY BARANGAY**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as "*Senior Citizens' Welfare*
2 *Desk Act.*"

3
4 Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the duty of the State to give full support
5 to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in
6 society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of Philippine society. The
7 government must implement community-based programs that reach to the grassroots
8 level and provide easy accessibility for our elderly to ensure genuine protection of
9 their rights and welfare.

10
11 Section 3. *Senior Citizens' Welfare Desk.* – There shall hereby be established in
12 every barangay a Senior Citizens' Welfare Desk through which all senior citizens may
13 lodge complaints, make inquiries, or ask for any form of assistance and aid, on issues
14 concerning them, including but not limited to the following:

- 15 a) Violations of their benefits and privileges under existing laws,
16 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

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

Section 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid,

1 the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

2

3 Section 8. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
4 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
5 circulation.

6

7 *Approved,*