

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

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SENATE
S.B. No. 1418

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide representation of senior citizens in local legislative and special bodies.

Senior citizens have a vital role in nation building. They have amassed valuable experiences as past or current leaders and prime movers in the nation's political, social and economic affairs. Based on 2000 Census, there are around 4.6 million senior citizens which accounts for 6 % of total population. There is a senior citizen in one out of every five households in the country. Around 80% of all senior citizens are literate, 57.41% are household heads and 57.07% are gainfully and economically productive. These indicate that more than half of senior citizens have the capacity and the energy to participate in productive affairs in society.

The State recognizes that senior citizens have their special needs that should be addressed through the provision of public services. This is evident with the passage of Republic Act No. 7432 titled "An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and for Other Purposes" and other such laws. However, senior citizens have yet to be fully tapped to represent their own concerns and interests in public policymaking bodies. Local policymaking bodies are the most viable venue for involving active participation of senior citizens since they tend to be less mobile as evidenced by the 2000 census which showed that 95% of senior citizens have remained in the same city/municipality where they lived five years prior to the census.

This bill seeks to promote the active participation of senior citizens in local governance and encourage them to advance their concerns through direct representation in local decision-making bodies.

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

LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE REPRESENTATION OF THE ELDERLY IN EVERY
SANGGUNIAN AND LOCAL SPECIAL BODIES IN ALL LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** - The State recognizes the wisdom and
2 values of senior citizens derived from the wealth of their experiences as past leaders
3 and prime movers of government, corporate and civic affairs of the nation. Towards
4 this end, the State shall endeavor to promote the active participation and
5 contribution of senior citizens in political and governance processes.
6

7 **SECTION 2. Objective.** - Pursuant to the foregoing policy, the State shall
8 ensure the representation of senior citizens in: (a) all *Sanggunians* in all *barangays*,
9 municipalities, cities and provinces; and (b) all local special bodies including, but
10 not limited to, those provided for under Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as
11 the "Local Government Code of 1991".
12

13 **SECTION 3. Representation in Sanggunians.** - All *Sangguniang Barangay*,
14 *Sangguniang Bayan*, *Sangguniang Panlungsod* and *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* shall
15 reserve a seat for a senior citizens' representative who shall enjoy all the privileges
16 and emoluments enjoyed by regular members of the *Sangguniang*.
17

18 **SECTION 4. Manner of Election.** - The senior citizens shall organize
19 themselves and elect from among them a chairperson who will represent them in the
20 *Sangguniang Barangay*. The chairpersons of the senior citizens' organizations in the
21 *barangays* will elect from among them their representative to the *Sangguniang*
22 *Bayan/Sangguniang Panlungsod*. The senior citizens' representatives of all

1 municipalities and cities under the jurisdiction of the provincial government shall
2 elect from among them a representative to the *Sangguniang Panlungsod*.

3
4 **SECTION 4. *Representation in Local Special Bodies.*** - The senior citizens'
5 representatives in the *sanggunian* of all barangays, municipalities, cities and
6 provinces shall sit as members of in all local special bodies in their respective local
7 government units.

8
9 **SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Department of
10 Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Commission on Elections
11 (COMELEC), shall be responsible for formulating the Implementing Rules and
12 Regulations necessary to effectively carryout the objectives and provisions provided
13 under this Act.

14
15 **SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
16 regulations or portions thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
17 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

18
19 **SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared
20 invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall remain in full
21 force and effect.

22
23 **SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after its publication in at
24 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

25
26 Approved.