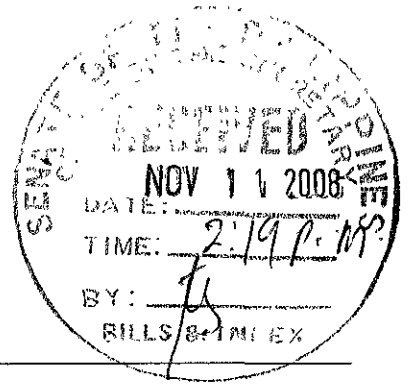


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session

SENATE

S.B. No. 2864



Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is almost trite to say that senior citizens of the country need special care and protection. Indeed, the State has, in instances such as discounts in purchases and the use of utilities, recognized the entitlement of senior citizens to certain privileges. This bill provides for a grant of privilege to senior citizens in an area that becomes more and more of a concern for them as they advance further in years.

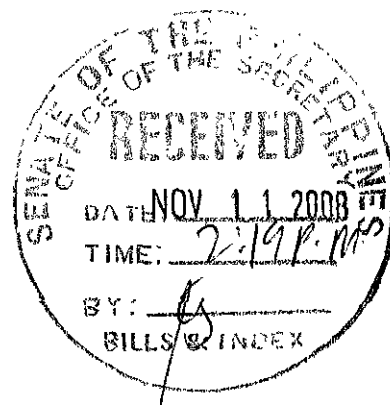
Generally, a natural consequence of advanced age is the increased need for seeking medical attention and availing the services in a hospital including confinement. Confinement in a hospital becomes constant and a way of life for many of senior citizens. However, the state of public hospitals, widely afflicted with congestion, is a cause for discomfort and inconvenience to sick people. Gaining accommodation for confinement in public hospitals oftentimes depends upon the availability of bed spaces.

This bill seeks to establish "Senior Citizens Ward" in public hospitals for the exclusive use of senior citizens. The exclusivity of these wards would disappear in times of emergency or whenever necessitated by public interest.

In view of the foregoing the enactment of this bill into law is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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



SENATE

S.B. No. 2864

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING SENIOR CITIZENS WARD IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN
THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt measures to ensure the protection and promotion of the right to health of senior citizens as well as to afford them certain privileges in health care.

SECTION 2. There shall be established a "Senior Citizens Ward" in every public hospital being maintained in the Philippines. Such ward shall be under the supervision of the administration of a public hospital.

SECTION 3. The "Senior Citizens Ward" in public hospitals shall be for the exclusive use of senior citizens who are in need of confinement in a hospital as found by competent medical practitioners by reason of their health conditions, unless urgent reasons of public necessity or emergency occasions requiring the immediate use of such wards arise. In such urgent or emergency occasions, designated senior citizens wards may be used as necessary.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. – The amount needed to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual appropriation to

the Department of Health in the General Appropriations Act in the year following the passage of this Act.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,