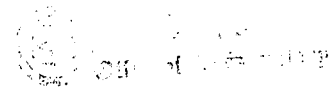


**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
Third Regular Session }**



'18 JUL 19 P3:55

**SENATE  
S.B. No. 1881**

RECEIVED

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INTRODUCED BY **SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

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**AN ACT  
CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS,  
PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNCTIONS, ABOLISHING THE NATIONAL  
COORDINATING COUNCIL AND MONITORING BOARD, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The declaration of policies and objectives of the State under Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution states that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social security for them.

According to the Commission on Population, the Philippines is close to having an aging population, which is marked by at least 7 percent of the population aged 65 years or older. By year-end 2018 there will be 8,013,059 Filipinos over 60, constituting 8.2% of Filipinos. Of this group, 5,082,049 will be 65 and older. Most countries are considered aging if they have at least 7% of the population over 65 years old. <sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/03/18/philippines-moving-toward-aging-population-popcom>

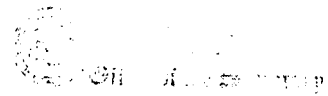
Filipinos have close family ties and the senior members of the family often continue to support and provide for the family as long as they can. In this way, they find a strong sense of purpose, importance and fulfillment in this latter part of their lives. Also, being able to take care of themselves and not be a burden to their family brings them pride and self-actualization.

It is imperative to safeguard their rights and ensure the proper execution of programs for their wellbeing. By establishing a commission solely for the senior citizens, we will be assured that their rights are protected, the implementation of the programs will be closely monitored and the development of suitable programs will be in effect.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as *The National*  
2 *Commission of Senior Citizens Act.*

3  
4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adopt  
5 measures whereby our senior citizens are assisted and appreciated by the  
6 community as a whole, provide services and activities beneficial to senior  
7 citizens, their families and the communities they serve, and establish  
8 community-based health and rehabilitation, educational, and socio-  
9 economic programs for all senior citizens.

10  
11 Consistent with this policy, the State shall promote the advocacy of  
12 and collaboration between different stakeholders and senior citizens to

1 ensure the effective implementation of various programs and services,  
2 particularly on development of senior citizens, advancing health and well-  
3 being into old age, and ensuring a supportive and enabling environment for  
4 the elderly.

5 SECTION 3. *Creation of the National Commission of Senior Citizens.* -

6 There is hereby created the National Commission of Senior Citizens,  
7 hereinafter referred to as the Commission, and which shall be under the  
8 Office of the President. The Commission shall establish its principal office in  
9 the National Capital Region and it may establish field offices in coordination  
10 with appropriate government agencies.

11

12 SECTION 4. *Composition.* - The Commission shall be composed of a  
13 Chairperson and six (6) Commissioners and shall act as a collegial body.  
14 The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission. The  
15 six (6) Commissioners shall represent different geographical regions of the  
16 Philippines and shall hold office in their respective regions; *Provided,* That  
17 the full Commission shall meet at least once every month.

18 SECTION 5. *Term of Office.* - The Chairperson and Commissioners  
19 shall have a term of office of six (6) years, without prejudice to  
20 reappointment by the President. Of those first appointed, the Chairperson  
21 and two (2) Commissioners shall hold office for six (6) years, two (2)  
22 Commissioners shall hold office for four (4) years, and two (2)  
23 Commissioners shall hold office for two (2) years, respectively. Appointment  
24 to any vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

25

26 SECTION 6. *Qualifications.* - The members of the Commission must be  
27 citizens and residents of the Philippines; at least sixty (60) years old at the  
28 time of their appointment, of good moral character, *bona fide* members of  
29 senior citizens associations, holders of a college degree or have relevant  
30 experience in the affairs of senior citizens, of good health and sound mind,  
31 not have been convicted by a final judgment of a crime involving moral  
32 turpitude, and recommended by a general assembly of senior citizens

1 organizations: *Provided*, That at least two (2) Commissioners shall be  
2 women.

3

4 SECTION 7. *Functions*. - The Commission shall:

5

6 a) Ensure the full implementation of laws, policies, and programs of the  
7 government pertaining to senior citizens, review and conduct studies on the  
8 same, and recommend appropriate actions thereon to Congress and the  
9 President;

10 b) Formulate policies for the promotion and protection of the rights and  
11 well-being of senior citizens;

12 c) Appoint the heads of the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA)  
13 and exercise supervision and control over the OSCA in the implementation  
14 of programs and activities for senior citizens;

15 e) Conduct information, education, and communication campaigns to  
16 raise awareness on the rights of senior citizens;

17 f) Establish and maintain cooperation and consultations with local  
18 government units and national government agencies on all matters  
19 pertaining to the general welfare of senior citizens;

20 g) Represent the Philippines in international functions, forums, or  
21 conferences on senior citizens and establish and maintain linkages with the  
22 international senior citizen or senior citizen-serving institutions or  
23 organizations and counterpart government agencies of other states;

24 h) Constitute and convene when necessary, an advisory body to be  
25 composed of such representatives from the government, non-government  
26 organizations, civil society, and the private sector, as the Commission may  
27 deem appropriate, to assist it in the performance of its functions;

28 i) Develop appropriate mechanisms and procedures for the selection  
29 and nomination of the members of the Commission for appointment by the  
30 President; and

31 j) Perform such other actions and functions for the promotion of the  
32 welfare of senior citizens, as may be directed by the President.

33

1           SECTION 8. *Organizational Structure.* - Subject to the approval of the  
2 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Commission shall  
3 determine its organizational structure and staffing pattern, create offices,  
4 divisions, or units as it may deem necessary, and appoint its officers and  
5 employees in accordance with civil service laws, rules and regulations. The  
6 remuneration structure for the positions in the staffing pattern shall strictly  
7 conform to Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the Salary  
8 Standardization Law, as amended.

9           SECTION 9. *Executive Director.* - The Commission shall appoint an  
10 Executive Director, who shall be a Career Executive Service Officer and shall  
11 have at least five (5) years of relevant experience in any of the following  
12 fields: law; economics; commerce; management; social services, or finance.

13           The Executive Director shall be responsible for implementing the  
14 policies, rules, regulations and directives of the Commission, the  
15 management of the Commission's daily operations, and for coordinating and  
16 supervising the activities of the different offices, divisions, and units of the  
17 Commission.

18  
19           SECTION 10. *Abolition of the National Coordinating and Monitoring*  
20 *Board.* - The National Coordinating and Monitoring Board created by virtue  
21 of Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as Expanded Senior Citizens Act  
22 of 2010 is hereby abolished.

23  
24           SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* - The amounts necessary for the initial  
25 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the Contingent Fund of  
26 the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for the current fiscal year. Thereafter,  
27 the amounts necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included  
28 in the annual GAA.

29  
30           SECTION 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Commission,  
31 after due consultation with the DBM, Department of Social Welfare and  
32 Development, Department of the Interior and Local Government, League of

1 Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, and  
2 other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the  
3 effective implementation of this Act, within one hundred eighty (180) days  
4 from its effectivity.  
5

6 SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision hereof not  
7 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.  
8

9 SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7432,  
10 as amended by Republic Act No. 9257 and further amended by Republic Act  
11 No. 9994, is hereby repealed. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
12 regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, that are inconsistent with  
13 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
14

15 SECTION 15. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
16 from its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general  
17 circulation.  
18

18 Approved,