



Office of the Secretary

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

'19 JAN 21 P3:18

RECEIVED

SENATE
S.B. NO. 2157

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SENIOR VISION SERVICES PROGRAM FOR
ELDERLY PERSONS WITH FUNCTIONAL VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV, Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security."


Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

The eye is an important organ of the human body that is used in everyday life. As they age, elderly people encounter different problems that lead to impairment of visual functions. It is our duty to provide senior citizens with health care services that will assist them in adapting to visual impairments brought about by aging.

The proposed bill seeks to protect and promote the health and welfare of our senior citizens by creating a national senior vision program that will provide comprehensive services for their functional visual impairments.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ML Binay', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

'19 JAN 21 P3:18

RECEIVED

J

SENATE
S.B. NO. 2157

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SENIOR VISION SERVICES PROGRAM FOR
ELDERLY PERSONS WITH FUNCTIONAL VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Senior Vision
2 Services Act."

3

4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote the
5 general welfare of the people. Pursuant to this policy, it shall establish a national
6 senior vision services for elderly persons with functional visual impairments.

7

8 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

9 (A) "Senior vision services" shall mean the provision of medical
10 and other needed services to elderly persons who have a
11 functional visual impairment. These services may include, but
12 not be limited to the following:

- 13 (1) vision screening;
- 14 (2) eye examination;
- 15 (3) information and referral;
- 16 (4) client and family counseling;
- 17 (5) referrals for ophthalmological, optometric, or other
- 18 health care services;

1 (6) provision of corrective eyeglasses;

2 (7) technical assistance and training for human services
3 personnel to serve persons who are blind or visually
4 impaired; and

5 (8) low vision screening.

6 (B) "Functional visual impairment" means an impairment of sight
7 that substantially interferes with an elderly person's ability to
8 perform specific daily living skills and tasks. Persons who are
9 not regarded as legally blind, pursuant to this paragraph, but
10 who experience such an impairment of sight, shall be deemed
11 eligible for senior vision services pursuant to this Act;

12 (C) "Elderly" means an individual over sixty (60) years of age; and

13 (D) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.
14

15 Sec. 4. *National Senior Vision Services Program.* – There is hereby
16 established a national senior vision services program for elderly persons with
17 functional visual impairments. Such program shall be under the direction of the
18 Secretary of Health.

19 In providing senior vision services, the Secretary shall take into
20 consideration the lack of services for elderly persons in need of senior vision
21 services to establish or to expand existing blind or visually impaired services
22 currently provided or available in municipalities and cities throughout the
23 country. The Secretary shall likewise ensure that due consideration is given to
24 the geographic and existing services demands for senior vision services within a
25 municipality or city.
26

27 Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days
28 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate the implementing
29 rules and regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

1 The Secretary shall submit a report to the House of Representatives and
2 the State, prior to, but in no event later than, December thirty-first, in the year
3 following the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, which shall include,
4 but not be limited to:

5 (A) Financial reports of the program operations established
6 pursuant to this Act;

7 (B) An analysis of the program's ability to provide such nationwide
8 senior vision services to elderly persons with functional visual
9 impairments;

10 (C) Recommendations on the continuation of such program and
11 the need for program expansion, if appropriate; and

12 (D) Other information deemed necessary.
13

14 Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the
15 provisions of this Act shall be included and incorporated in the annual general
16 appropriations of the Department of Health.
17

18 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid
19 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise
20 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.
21

22 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
23 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation
24 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
25 modified, or amended accordingly.
26

27 Sec. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
28 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,