

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

20 JAN 21 A8:48

SENATE

S.B. No. 1278

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 16 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 5 of the Philippine Constitution declares that the promotion of the people's general welfare essential to the enjoyment "of the blessings of democracy."

Thus, the State must find and take advantage of every opportunity available with which it can improve the welfare and condition of its people. In pursuit of this objective, the State seeks the aid of local governments, which have been its constant and most important partner in delivering essential and basic social services to the people. Under Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991, police power for the promotion of the general welfare of the people has been delegated in favor of local governments. Section 16, however, is couched in general terms to give local governments the leeway and freedom to focus and prioritize issues which are most pressing in their jurisdictions.

This bill seeks to amend the existing provision of Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991 by strengthening the initiatives of the State, through the local governments, toward promoting the welfare of senior citizens and persons with disability. Specifically, the proposed amendments mandate local governments to formulate policies and implement welfare programs, including healthcare benefits, and programs intended to maximize employment opportunities for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The amendments also ensure their convenient and priority access to government services, welfare programs, utilities, and facilities.

Indeed, improving the plight of and giving extra care to our senior citizens and persons with disability are equally pressing. The State must invest not only in their care but also in ensuring their full integration as productive members thereof.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local
2 Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:
3

4 **Section 16. General Welfare.** - Every local government unit shall
5 exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied
6 therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for
7 its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to
8 the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial
9 jurisdictions, local government units shall ensure and support, among
10 other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote
11 health and safety, INCLUDING PROGRAMS FOR THE PROVISION
12 OF FREE HEALTHCARE TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS
13 WITH DISABILITY, enhance the right of the people to a balanced
14 ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and
15 self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public
16 morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full
17 employment among their residents, INCLUDING SENIOR CITIZENS
18 AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY, maintain peace and order, and
19 preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants. IN ALL
20 CASES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL ENSURE THAT
21 SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ARE
22 GRANTED CONVENIENT, EASY AND PRIORITY ACCESS TO
23 SOCIAL AND OTHER SERVICES, FACILITIES AND OTHER
24 UTILITIES.
25
26

1 **SEC. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30) days from the
2 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government, in
3 consultation with other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing
4 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
5

6 **SEC. 3. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or
7 part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
8 amended or modified accordingly.
9

10 **SEC. 4. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
12 circulation.
13

14 **Approved,**