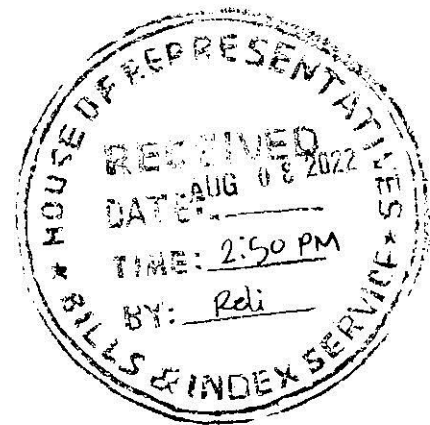


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3291



---

Introduced by Representative Marjorie Ann "Maan" A. Teodoro

---

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our 1987 Constitution states that Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all the people to human dignity, reduce social and political inequalities". Furthermore, "the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the elderly. In line with this, this bill aims to establish and institutionalize long-term care for senior citizens to improve their physical, mental, and emotional health with the end goal of improving and promoting their quality of life.

The long-term care program shall be focused on social protection, senior citizens and development, advancement to health and well-being, and an enabling and supportive environment. This will help our senior citizens develop a way of living wherein they would be able to live independently and safely as possible as they can no longer perform everyday activities as they used to.

As of 2020, the number of Senior Citizens residing in the Philippines is 12,336,355, which accounts to 11.31% of our population; this number may have already increased in the last two (2) years. As the rapid growth of ageing population increases, cases of abandonment, neglect, homelessness, and their special needs increase as well. We must further examine what other necessities our senior citizens may need, especially now that many of them are more than dependent on the government for support as some of them are forced to live independently.

With the progression of times, programs and technological advancements have improved our way of living. This shall include our elderlies. We must put into good use what we have learned and implemented over the years to provide them with social, political, economic, and cultural protection through the development of a comprehensive long term care program for our Senior Citizens.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, this bill is earnestly sought for.

MARJORIE ANN "MAAN" A. TEODORO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marjorie Ann Teodoro", written over the printed name.

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3281

---

Introduced by Representative Marjorie Ann "Maan" A. Teodoro

---

AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING LONG-TERM CARE FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Long-Term Care for Senior Citizens Act of 2022”

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the elderly. Towards this end, the State shall establish and institutionalize long-term care for Senior Citizens to improve their physical and mental health, as well as their emotional well-being. Furthermore, the State acknowledges the need to improve and promote the quality of life of Senior Citizens.

**SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as the following:

- a. *Senior Citizens* refers to any person as defined in Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7876 otherwise known as the *Senior Citizen Center Act*
- b. *Long-term care* refers to a sustained provision of comprehensive programs and services to Senior Citizens with the view of enabling them to have dignified, healthy and secured lives.
- c. *Dependent Senior Citizens* refers to those persons who are either frail, sickly, suffering from any disability, and has no other means to support his/her basic needs.

**SEC. 4. National Long-Term Care Program Framework.** – A national long-term care program for Senior Citizens is hereby established which shall embody the following core programs and/or services, among others:

a. **Social Protection** shall cover programs which seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability and enhance the social status and rights to senior citizens by promoting and protecting them against hazards and sudden loss of income and improving senior citizens' capacity to manage risks.

a.1. *Social Welfare* – Curative and preventive interventions that seek to support the special needs of Senior Citizens and to reduce risks associated with old age shall be provided. These shall include activities aimed at protecting senior citizens from abuse, exploitation, and discrimination. Moreover, prevention and provision of support services against physical, emotional, and financial abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect, and abandonment of senior citizens shall be established within the family and at the community level. Towards this end, trainings and awareness of the problems confronting senior citizens and to equip the public with the necessary know-how to prevent and detect problem areas concerning senior citizens.

a.2. *Livelihood/Job Generation Program* – Senior Citizens shall be specifically targeted in livelihood programs and other poverty alleviation programs. Further, livelihood programs shall guarantee a minimum income and shall be designed in a manner that increases senior citizen's productivity.

a.3. *Social Insurance* – Existing social insurance programs shall be modified and expanded to guarantee that Senior Citizens shall be adequately protected from loss of income and unemployment as a result of old age. Economic and financial support through other innovative social insurance and pension schemes especially designated for families caring for dependent/disabled senior citizens shall likewise be endeavored.

a.4. *Social Safety Nets* – Stop-gap mechanisms or urgent and immediate responses shall be instituted to shield Senior Citizens from vulnerabilities arising from disasters, emergency and displacement due to development projects, natural and man-made calamities.

- b. **Senior Citizens and Development.** – This shall include mainstreaming activities such as lifelong education programs for ageing preparation and non-formal education at the local level for those sixty (60) years and above and development of programs which will allow senior citizens to remain actively engaged in as many social, economic and community activities as possible.
- c. **Advancing Health and Well-being.** – An integrated and innovative elderly-focused health and social services be made available at the local level. Particularly emphasis shall be made on disease prevention, health promotion, and wellness of mind, body and spirit. Health services shall comprise preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care services in all government and private hospitals, local health facilities and other community-based facilities. The said program shall contemplate the following among others:
- c.1. Homecare and hospice for the frail and dependent elderly and medical and psychological support for patients requiring continued medical assistance after discharge.
  - c.2. Development and provisions of geriatric training at the family and community level.
  - c.3. Mandatory PhilHealth coverage for non-contributory senior citizens especially the poor.
- d. **Enabling and Supportive Environment.** – Provisions of home nursing for the elderly, facilities for respite care, programs on counseling, professional guidance and emotional support and low-cost, community-based activities integrated into existing community health programs as well as strengthening of inter-generational relationships.

Nothing above prevents the agencies tasked to implement the provisions of this Act from introducing other social services and programs designed to promote the National Long-Term for Senior Citizens.

**SEC. 5. Implementing Agencies.** – This program shall be implemented by the Department of Finance, Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Social Welfare and Development and the various local government units. The National Inter-Agency Monitoring Board created under Republic Act No. 9257 otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act shall take the lead in monitoring the implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 6. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter the local government units shall undertake the maintenance of the institutions established under this Act.

**SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - DSWD, in consultation with other implementing agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** - All provisions of existing laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** - If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

**SEC. 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,