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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

S. No. 2159

(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 674, 1881 and 2099)

Prepared by the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance with Senators Aquino, Sotto, Angara, Trillanes and de Lima as authors thereof

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

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

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

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

8 Consistent with this policy, the State shall promote the advocacy of and
9 collaboration between different stakeholders and senior citizens to ensure the effective
10 implementation of various programs and services, particularly on the development of
11 senior citizens and advancing their health and well-being, and ensuring a supportive
12 and enabling environment for the elderly.

13 SEC. 3. **Creation of the National Commission of Senior Citizens.** -
14 There is hereby created the National Commission of Senior Citizens, hereinafter

1 referred to as the Commission, and which shall be under the Office of the President.
2 The Commission shall establish its principal office in the National Capital Region and
3 it may set up field offices in coordination with appropriate government agencies.

4 SEC. 4. **Composition.** – The Commission shall be composed of a Chairperson
5 and six (6) Commissioners and shall act as a collegial body. The Chairperson shall be
6 the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission. The six (6) Commissioners shall
7 represent different geographical regions of the Philippines and shall hold office in their
8 respective regions; *Provided*, That the full Commission shall meet at least once every
9 month.

10 SEC.5. **Term of Office.** - The Chairperson and Commissioners shall have a
11 term of office of six (6) years, without prejudice to reappointment by the President. Of
12 those first appointed, the Chairperson and two (2) Commissioners shall hold office for
13 six (6) years, two (2) Commissioners shall hold office for four (4) years, and two (2)
14 Commissioners shall hold office for two (2) years. Appointment to any vacancy shall
15 only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

16 SEC.6. **Qualifications.** - The members of the Commission must be citizens
17 and residents of the Philippines; at least sixty (60) years old at the time of their
18 appointment; of good moral character; *bona fide* members of senior citizens
19 associations; holders of a college degree or have relevant experience in the affairs of
20 senior citizens; of good health and sound mind; have not been convicted by a final
21 judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude; and recommended by a general
22 assembly of senior citizens organizations: *Provided*, That at least two (2)
23 Commissioners shall be women.

24 SEC. 7. **Functions.** - The Commission shall:

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

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

30 c) Conduct information, education, and communication campaigns to raise
31 awareness on the rights of senior citizens;

1 d) Establish and maintain cooperation and consultations with local government
2 units and national government agencies on all matters pertaining to the general
3 welfare of senior citizens;

4 e) Represent the Philippines in international functions, fora, or conferences on
5 senior citizens and establish and maintain linkages with the international senior
6 citizen or senior citizen-serving institutions or organizations and counterpart
7 government agencies of other states;

8 f) Constitute and convene when necessary, an advisory body to be composed of
9 such representatives from the government, non-government organizations, civil
10 society, and the private sector, as the Commission may deem appropriate, to assist in
11 the performance of its functions;

12 g) Develop appropriate mechanisms and procedures for the selection and
13 nomination of the members of the Commission for appointment by the President; and

14 h) Perform such other actions and functions for the promotion of the welfare of
15 senior citizens, as may be directed by the President.

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

23 SEC. 9. **Executive Director.** – The Commission shall appoint an Executive
24 Director who shall be responsible for implementing the policies, rules, regulations and
25 directives of the Commission; the management of the Commission's daily operations;
26 and for coordinating and supervising the activities of the different offices, divisions,
27 and units of the Commission.

28 The Executive Director shall be a Career Executive Service Officer and shall
29 have at least five (5) years of relevant experience in any of the following fields: law;
30 economics; commerce; management; social services; or finance.

31 SEC. 10. **Abolition of the National Coordinating and Monitoring**
32 **Board.** - The National Coordinating and Monitoring Board created by virtue of

1 Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, is
2 hereby abolished.

3 SEC. 11. ***Transfer of Functions from the Department of Social***
4 ***Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the National Commission of Senior***
5 ***Citizens (NCSC).*** – All functions, programs, projects and activities which are being
6 undertaken by the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the
7 formulation, implementation, and coordination of social welfare and development
8 (SWD) policies and programs for the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged senior
9 citizens shall be transferred to the NCSC.

10 SEC. 12. ***Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to fund the
11 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

12 SEC. 13. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Commission, after
13 due consultation with the DBM, DSWD, Department of the Interior and Local
14 Government, League of Cities of the Philippines, League of Municipalities of the
15 Philippines, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the
16 effective implementation of this Act, within one hundred eighty (180) days from its
17 effectivity.

18 SEC. 14. ***Separability Clause.*** – If for any reason any section or provision
19 of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof
20 shall not be affected thereby.

21 SEC.15. ***Repealing Clause.*** – Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7432, as
22 amended by Republic Act No. 9257 and further amended by Republic Act No. 9994, is
23 hereby repealed. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other
24 issuances, or parts thereof, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
25 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

26 SEC.16. ***Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,