

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**



'22 JUL 12 P 6 :34

SENATE
S.B. No. 448

RECEIVED BY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROBINHOOD PADILLA

**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH A NURSING HOME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines has been known as a family-centered nation. Embedded in the Filipino culture is the strong and close-knit family ties, which thereby put a high premium on the responsibility of families to look after and care for each other, especially the elderly.

In fact, no less than the 1987 Constitution provides that [t]he State recognizes the Filipino family as the foundation of the nation. Accordingly, it shall strengthen its solidarity and actively promote its total development (Section 1, Article XV). Further, the supreme law of the land stipulates that the family has the duty to care for its elderly members, but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.

While the tradition of caring for the elderly deeply lingers in Filipino families, it is a reality today that many underprivileged families encounter major challenges and gaps in ensuring the well-being of older people. Such challenges are mainly attributed to poor access to health care and low income and assets, which result in many of the elderly, specifically women, depending on their children for economic support.¹ Worse, there are also cases wherein elderly people are neglected and/or abandoned by their supposed families.

Another factor that the government must look into is the steady rise of the elderly population in the country, as reported by the Commission on Population and Development (CPD). In 2019, senior citizens in the Philippines account for 8.2 percent

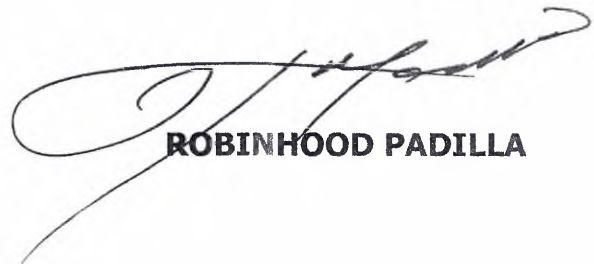
¹ Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). 2019. Provision of Care for Filipino Older Persons and Responding to the Needs of Aging Societies. Accessed on 05 July 2022 from https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/unpd_egm_201902_s8_pleneegracejcastillo.pdf

of the population, and the CPD anticipates that this is expected to hit 14 percent between 2030 and 2035.²

With the anticipated rise in the elderly population, limited number of public geriatric services available, and the rising standard of living in the country, it is incumbent upon the State to lend a hand in ensuring that the welfare and special needs of the elderly people are addressed.

This bill therefore seeks to establish and institutionalize a Nursing Home for Senior Citizens in every city and municipality in the country to assist families in providing for the special needs and demands of the elderly.


It is for these reasons that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ROBINHOOD PADILLA

² Galvez, D. (2019). *Philippines to have 'aging population between 2030 and 2035 - CPD'*. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Accessed on 05 July 2022 from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1075493/philippines-to-have-aging-population-between-2030-and-2035-cpd>

SENATE
S.B. No. 448

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROBINHOOD PADILLA

**AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH A NURSING HOME FOR SENIOR CITIZENS
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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

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SECTION 1. Short Title. – The Act shall be known as the “*Nursing Home for Senior Citizens (NHSC) Act*”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.

While the family has the duty to care for its elderly members, the State may also do so through just programs of social security. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide nursing homes for senior citizens in every city and municipality in the country with quality and affordable care and nursing facilities for elderly Filipinos.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) *Care* refers to the fulfillment of the special needs and requirements of the senior citizens;
- (b) *Nursing Home for Senior Citizens or NHSC* refers to the place and facilities designed to provide skilled care to the elderly, twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week; and
- (c) *Senior citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

1 **SEC. 4. *Establishment of NHSC.*** – The city or municipal local government
2 unit (LGU) shall establish an NHSC in their respective jurisdictions for the services
3 provided in Section 5 of this Act.
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5 **SEC. 5. *Services of NHSC.*** – The NHSC shall provide senior citizens with the
6 following services:
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- 8 a. Comfortable living spaces;
 - 9 b. Adequate food and clothing;
 - 10 c. Personal and custodial care;
 - 11 d. Medical consultation, treatment, and monitoring;
 - 12 e. Health care;
 - 13 f. Social and recreational activities;
 - 14 g. Occupational opportunities;
 - 15 h. Counseling;
 - 16 i. Family dialogue;
 - 17 j. Case conferences;
 - 18 k. Literacy education;
 - 19 l. Religious, cultural, and vocational activities; and
 - 20 m. Such other similar services, as may be required by the LGU concerned.
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22 **SEC. 6. *Administration of NHSC.*** – The Office of the City or Municipal Mayor
23 shall have the control and management of the NHSC. The Office shall also appoint the
24 person who will administer the NHSC.
25

26 **SEC. 7. *Supervision and Monitoring of NHSC.*** – The Department of Social
27 Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall supervise and monitor the NHSC to ensure it
28 is faithfully providing the services stated in Section 5 of this Act.
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30 The City or Municipal Social Welfare Development Officer shall submit a
31 quarterly report on the disbursements and expenditures related to the management
32 of the NHSC under their respective jurisdictions to the DSWD.
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34 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DSWD, in
35 coordination with the Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local
36 Government, and other concerned agencies and entities, shall hereby promulgate the
37 rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act not later than ninety (90)
38 days after its effectivity.
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40 **SEC. 9. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
41 of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its
42 enactment into law and every year thereafter.
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44 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – In the event any provision of this Act or the
45 application of such provision is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act or the
46 application of the said provision shall not be affected thereby.

1 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
2 orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions
3 of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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5 **SEC. 12. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,