

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

23 JUL 25 A11 :48

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SENATE

S.B. NO. 2346

Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION FIVE (5) (C) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 1992 AS AMENDED, TO MANDATE AND FURTHER BROADEN THE SCOPE OF A GERIATRIC WARD, TO INCLUDE BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, INFIRMARIES, AND WELLNESS CENTERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the 2020 national census, there are a total of 9.22 Million senior citizens, or those people aged 60 years old and over. This constitutes 8.5% of the household population.¹ Once a country reaches 14% senior citizens of its population, it is then considered as an aging society, to which the Philippines is expected to reach between 2030 and 2035.² With this growing elderly population, it is important to strengthen and improve the existing policies crafted for the needs and welfare of our senior citizens.

Article XIII Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides that in adopting an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, the State shall prioritize the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. Article XV Section 4 thereof further states 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."

The Expanded Senior Citizens' Act of 2010 has greatly improved the benefits and services for senior citizens. This shows that government and private efforts for elderly care are in place. However, the provision on the establishment of geriatric wards in government hospitals has not been fully implemented. In a study conducted by the Department of Health – Health Facility Development Bureau Research and

¹<https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing/node/167965>

²<https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/8.3.1%20Profile%20of%20Geriatric%20Wards%20and%20Accessibility%20of%20Health%20Services%20for%20Senior%20Citizens.pdf>


Performance Management Division on the Geriatric Health Facility Program, the common reasons cited for the unavailability of Geriatric wards are the following:

- Lack of available space for the geriatric ward;
- Space constraint, senior citizens are admitted in general and private wards;
- Limited bed capacity, senior citizens are mixed with Internal Medicine patients;
- It is beyond the service capability of the hospital;
- Lack of funds and resources;
- Lack of geriatric specialists in the hospital; and
- Facilities think that they are not required to have one.³

With these reasons, the goal of providing readily available and accessible facilities for senior citizens are not met, and in reality add up to the increasing morbidity and mortality of our elderly citizens.

This bill seeks to provide our senior citizens a designated area, exclusive for them, in every government and private hospitals, institutions, infirmaries, and wellness centers throughout the country. This is to ensure that every senior citizen will be accommodated with utmost priority and be given the best possible healthcare services entitled to them.

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



FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO
Senator

³<https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/8.3.1%20Profile%20of%20Geriatric%20Wards%20and%20Accessibility%20of%20Health%20Services%20for%20Senior%20Citizens.pdf>

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

1 **Section 1.** Section 5 (c) of Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the
2 "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SECTION 5. *Government Assistance.* The government shall provide the
4 following:

- 5 a. xxx
- 6 b. xxx
- 7 c. Health

8 "The DOH, in coordination with local government units (LGUs), NGOs and POs
9 for senior citizens, shall institute a national health program and shall provide
10 an integrated health service for senior citizens. It shall train community-based
11 health workers among senior citizens and health personnel to specialize in the
12 geriatric care and health problems of senior citizens.

xxx

13 "Throughout the country, there shall be established a "senior citizens' ward" in
14 every government **AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS,**
15 **INFIRMARIES, AND WELLNESS CENTERS.** This geriatric ward shall be for

1 the exclusive use of senior citizens who are in need of [hospital]
2 **OBSERVATION, MONITORING, OR CONFINEMENT IN ANY**
3 **GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS,**
4 **INFIRMARIES, AND WELLNESS CENTERS,** by reason of their health
5 conditions **AND WELLNESS MAINTENANCE.** However, when urgency of
6 public necessity purposes so require, such geriatric ward may **TEMPORARILY**
7 be used for emergency purposes, **PROVIDED THAT SENIOR CITIZENS**
8 **WILL STILL BE PRIORITIZED AND BE SECURELY PLACED IN A SAFE**
9 **AREA,** after [which] **THE PASSING OF THE EMERGENCY SITUATION,**
10 such "senior citizens' ward" shall be reverted to its **ORIGINAL** nature as **AN**
11 **EXCLUSIVE** geriatric ward.

12 **"UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, PRIVATE ENTITIES THAT**
13 **WILL MAINTAIN AN EXCLUSIVE AND FUNCTIONING SENIOR**
14 **CITIZENS' WARD, WHICH WILL ADMIT AND CATER TO SENIOR**
15 **CITIZENS AS THEIR PATIENTS, SHALL BE ENTITLED TO AN**
16 **ADDITIONAL DEDUCTION FROM THEIR GROSS INCOME,**
17 **EQUIVALENT TO FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT**
18 **PAID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SAID**
19 **GERIATRIC WARD; PROVIDED, THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE**
20 **CLAIMED TAX DEDUCTION NET OF VALUE ADDED TAX, IF**
21 **APPLICABLE, SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THEIR GROSS SALES RECEIPTS**
22 **FOR TAX PURPOSES AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO PROPER**
23 **DOCUMENTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE**
24 **NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE (NIRC), AS AMENDED.**

xxx

25 **Section 2. Separability Clause.** Should any part or provision of this Act be
26 held unconstitutional or invalid, the parts or provisions not affected thereby shall
27 continue to have full force and effect.

28 **Section 3. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
29 regulations, issuances, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
30 are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

31 **Section 4. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
32 following its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in the newspaper of general
33 circulation

Approved,