

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1448



Introduced by **Representative Kristine Singson-Meehan**

Since time immemorial, organized communities have always sought their respective council of elders for guidance through their wisdom and experience.

However, in today's scenario, the influence of the elderly has started to diminish, to the point that their representation in government has become insignificant.

Statistics have shown that in 2007 that 6.5% of the entire population is comprised of citizens whose age are from 60 years old and above. It is projected that by the year 2030, the senior citizens would comprise 10% of the total population.

Despite the significant figure, the senior citizens have not been properly represented in government, starting from the Barangay government. This should be contrasted with the youth sector which has representation in government, starting from the Barangay, through the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK). This, even though under Republic Act No. 9164, SK membership has been limited to those with ages 15 to not more than 18 years. It is needless to state that such is a very minute segment of the population. A positive action is needed for the senior citizens and the elderly to have a voice in government.

Under this measure, the Local Government Code of 1991 shall be amended and a Sangguniang Senior Citizens and a Katipunan ng mga Senior Citizens shall be created. The Senior Citizens Sanggunian shall be elected, starting from the Barangay level, similar to the SK. The Chairman of the Senior Citizens Sanggunian shall also become an ex officio member of the Barangay Council.

The Senior Citizens Sanggunian shall likewise have Municipal, City and Provincial Federations. They shall have representation in the Sangguniang Pambayan, Panglungsod and Panglalawigan.

With this measure, not only are the senior citizens and the elderly going to be properly represented in government and continue to perform an active role in

nation building. More important, we as a people would benefit from their wisdom and values, which they have learned through the years.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill, previously filed as House Bill No. 2450 in the Seventeenth Congress, is earnestly sought.


KRISTINE SINGSON-MEEHAN

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Introduced by **Representative Kristine Singson-Meehan**

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN ALL LEVELS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CREATING THE SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS, PROVIDING FOR THEIR POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AMENDING SECTIONS 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437 AND 438 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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 “Sangguniang Senior Citizens Act of 2019”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — hereby declared the policy of the State to allow the senior citizens and the elderly to be properly represented in government and continue to perform an active role in nation building.

SECTION 3. *Amendment of Section 423 of the Local Government Code.* — Section 423 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"CHAPTER VIII

Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS

SEC. 423 *Creation and Election*. — (a) There shall be in every barangay a sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** to be composed of a chairman, [~~seven (7)~~] **FOUR (4)** members, a secretary, and a treasurer.

(b) A sangguniang kabataan official who, during his 10 term of office, shall have passed the age of twenty-one (21) years shall be allowed to serve the remaining portion of the 12 term for which he was elected.”

SECTION 4. *Amendment of Section 424 of the Local Government Code.*

— Section 424 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 424. *Katipunan ng Kabataan AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS*. — The katipunan ng kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall be composed of Filipino citizens actually residing in the barangay for at least six (6) months, **IN THE CASE OF THE KATIPUNAN NG KABATAAN**, who are fifteen (15) but less than eighteen (18) 23 years of age on the day of the election, **AND IN THE CASE OF KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS, WHO ARE SIXTY (60) YEAR OF AGE OR MORE** and who are duly registered in the list of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** or in the official barangay list in the custody of the barangay secretary.”

SECTION 5. *Amendment of Section 425 of the Local Government Code.*

— Section 425 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 425. *Meetings of the Katipunan ng Kabataan AND THE KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS*. — The katipunan ng kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall meet at least once every three (3) months, or at the call of the chairman of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** or upon written petition of at least one-twentieth (1/20) of its members, to decide on important issues affecting the youth **AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS, RESPECTIVELY**, of the barangay.”

SECTION 6. *Amendment of Section 426 of the Local Government Code.*
— Section 426 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 426. Powers and _ Functions of _ the Sangguniang Kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS.** — _ The — sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall:

(a) Promulgate resolutions necessary to carry out the objectives of the youth **AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS, RESPECTIVELY,** in the barangay in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Code;

(b) Initiate programs designed to enhance the social, political, economic, cultural, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and physical development of the members;

(c) Hold fund-raising activities, the proceeds of which shall be tax-exempt and shall accrue to the general fund of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS:** Provided, however, That in the appropriation thereof, the specific purpose for which such activity has been held shall be first satisfied;

(d) Create such bodies or committees as it may deem necessary to effectively carry out its programs and activities;

(e) Submit annual and end-of-term reports to the sangguniang barangay on their projects and activities for the survival and development of the youth **AND THE SENIOR CITIZENS** in the barangay;

(f) Consult and coordinate with all youth **AND SENIOR CITIZENS** organizations in the barangay for policy formulation and program implementation;

(g) Coordinate with the appropriate national agency for the implementation of youth **AND SENIOR CITIZENS** development projects and programs at the national level;

(h) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as the sangguniang barangay may determine or delegate or as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.”

SECTION 7. *Amendment of Section 427 of the Local Government Code.*

— Section 427 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 427. *Meetings of the Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS.* — The sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall meet regularly once a month on the date, time, and place to be fixed by the said **RESPECTIVE** sanggunian. Special meetings may be called by the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman or any **TWO (2) [three (3)]** of its members by giving written notice to all members of the date, time, place and agenda of the meeting at least one (1) day in advance. Notices of regular or special meetings shall be furnished the punong barangay and the sangguniang barangay.

A majority of the members of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall constitute a quorum.”

SECTION 8. *Amendment of Section 428 of the Local Government Code.*

— Section 428 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 428. *Qualifications.* — An elective official of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** must be a Filipino citizen, a qualified voter of the katipunan ng kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**, a resident of the barangay for at least one (1) year immediately prior to election, at least fifteen (15) years but less than eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the election **FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND SIXTY (60) YEARS OF AGE OR MORE FOR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**, able to read and write Filipino, English, or the local dialect, and must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude.”

SECTION 9. *Amendment of Section 429 of the Local Government Code.*

— Section 429 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 429. *Term of Office.* — The sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman and members shall hold office for a period of three (3) years, unless sooner removed for

cause as provided by law, permanently incapacitated, die or resign from office.”

SECTION 10. *Amendment of Section 430 of the Local Government Code.*

— Section 430 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 430. *Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS Chairman.* — The registered voters of the katipunan ng kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall elect the chairman of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** who shall **BOTH** automatically serve as **[an]** ex officio member**S** of the sangguniang barangay upon **[his]** **THEIR** assumption to office. As such, **[he]** **THEY** shall exercise the same powers, discharge the same duties and functions, and enjoy the same privileges as the regular sangguniang barangay members, and shall be the chairman of the committee on youth and sports development **AND COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZES' AFFAIRS, RESPECTIVELY**, in the said sanggunian.”

SECTION 11. *Amendment of Section 431 of the Local Government Code.* — Section 431 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 431. *Powers and Duties of the Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS Chairman.* — In addition to the duties which may be assigned to **[him]** **THEM** by the sangguniang barangay, the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** **[chairman]** **CHAIRMEN** shall:

- (a) Call and preside over all meetings of the **RESPECTIVE** katipunan ng kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS** and the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**;
- (b) Implement policies, programs, and projects within his jurisdiction in coordination with the sangguniang barangay;
- (c) Exercise general supervision over the affairs and activities of the sangguniang kabataan **AND**

SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS and the official conduct of its members, and such other officers of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** within [his] **THEIR** jurisdiction;

(d) With the concurrence of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**, appoint from among the members of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**, the secretary and treasurer and such other officers as may be deemed necessary; and

(e) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

SECTION 12. *Amendment of Section 432 of the Local Government Code.* — Section 432 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 432. Sangguniang Kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** Secretary. — The **RESPECTIVE** sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** secretary shall:

(a) Keep all records of the katipunan ng kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR- CITIZENS** and sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**;

(b) Prepare and keep the minutes of all meetings of the katipunan ng kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** and sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**;

(c) Prepare all forms necessary for the conduct of registrations, elections, initiatives, referenda, or plebiscites, in coordination with the barangay secretary and the COMELEC; and

(d) Perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as the chairman of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** may prescribe or direct.

SECTION 13. *Amendment of Section 433 of the Local Government Code.* — Section 433 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 433. *Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS Treasurer.* — The **RESPECTIVE** sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** treasurer shall:

(a) Take custody of all sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** property and funds not otherwise deposited with the city or municipal treasurer;

(b) Collect and receive contributions, monies, materials, and all other resources intended for the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** and the katipunan ng kabataan **AND KATIPUNAN NG SENIOR CITIZENS**;

(c) Disburse funds in accordance with an approved budget of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**;

(d) Certify to the availability of funds whenever necessary;

(e) Submit to the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** and to the sangguniang barangay certified and detailed statements of actual income and expenditures at the end of every month;

(f) Perform such other duties and discharge such other functions as the chairman of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** may direct.”

SECTION 14. *Amendment of Section 434 of the Local Government Code.* — Section 434 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 434. *Privileges of Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS Officials.* — The **RESPECTIVE** sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman shall have the same privileges

enjoyed by other sangguniang barangay officials under this Code subject to such requirements and limitations provided herein. During their incumbency, sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** officials shall be exempt from payment of tuition and matriculation fees while enrolled in public tertiary schools, including state colleges and universities. The National Government shall reimburse said college or university the amount of the tuition and matriculation fees: Provided, That, to qualify for the privilege, the said officials shall enroll in a state college or university within or nearest their area of jurisdiction.”

SECTION 15. Amendment of Section 435 of the Local Government Code. — Section 435 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 435. *Succession and Filling of Vacancies.* —

(a) In case a sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, is convicted of a felony, voluntarily resigns, dies, is permanently incapacitated, is removed from office, or has been absent without leave for more than three (3) consecutive months, the sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** member who obtained the next highest number of votes in the election immediately preceding shall assume the office of the chairman for the unexpired portion of the term, and shall discharge the powers and duties, and enjoy the rights and privileges appurtenant to the office. In case the said member refuses to assume the position or fails to qualify, the sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** member obtaining the next highest number of votes shall assume the position of the chairman for the unexpired portion of the term.

(b) Where two (2) or more sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** members obtained the same next highest number of votes, the other sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** members shall conduct an election to choose the successor to the chairman from among the said members.

(c) After the vacancy shall have been filled, the sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman

shall call a special election to complete the membership of said sanggunian. Such sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** member shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the term of the vacant seat.

(d) In case of suspension of the sangguniang kabataan **OR SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman, the successor, as determined in subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall assume the position during the period of such suspension.

SECTION 16. Amendment of Section 436 of the Local Government Code. — Section 436 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“CHAPTER IX

Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS**

SECTION 436. Pederasyon ng mga Sangguniang Kabataan AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS. — (a) There shall be an organization of all the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** to be known as follows:

(1) In municipalities, pambayang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND PAMBAYANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS;**

(2) In cities, panlungsod na pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND PANGLUNGSOD NA PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS;**

(3) In provinces, panlalawigang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND PANLALAWIGANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS;**

(4) In special metropolitan political subdivisions, pangmetropolitang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND PANGMETROPOLITANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS;** and

(5) On the national level, pambansang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND PAMBANSANG PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS.**

(b) Ang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** shall, at all levels, elect from among themselves the president, vice-president and such other officers as may be necessary and shall be organized in the following manner:

(1) The panlungsod and pambayang pederasyon shall be composed of the sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR' CITIZENS** chairmen of barangays in the city or municipality, respectively;

(2) The panlalawigang pederasyon shall be composed of presidents of the panlungsod and pambayang pederasyon;

(3) The pangmetropolitang pederasyon shall be composed of presidents of the panlungsod and pambayang pederasyon;

(c) The elected presidents of the pederasyon at the provincial, highly urbanized city, and metropolitan political subdivision levels shall constitute the pambansang katipunan ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND PAMBANSANG KATIPUNAN NG MGA SENIOR CITIZENS."**

SECTION 17. Amendment of Section 437 of the Local Government Code. — Section 437 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 437. Constitution and By-Laws. — 'The term of office, manner of election, removal and suspension of the officers of the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan **AND PEDERASYON NG MGA SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** at all levels shall be governed by the constitution and by-laws of the pederasyon in conformity with the provisions of this Code and national policies on youth **AND SENIOR CITIZENS.**'"

SECTION 18. Amendment of Section 438 of the Local Government Code. — Section 438 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 438. Membership in the Sanggunian. — (a) A sangguniang kabataan **AND SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS** chairman shall, upon certification of his election by the COMELEC and during his tenure of office is elected as pederasyon president, serve as an ex officio member of the sangguniang panlalawigan, sangguniang panlungsod, and sangguniang bayan, as the case may be, without need of further appointment.

(b) The vice-president of the pederasyon whose president has been elected as president of a higher pederasyon shall serve as ex officio member of the sanggunian concerned without need of further appointment.

(c) The pederasyon president or vice-president, as the case may be, **OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN** shall be the chairman of the committee on youth and sports development, **WHILE THAT OF THE SANGGUNIANG SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE THE CHAIRMAN OF SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS** of the sanggunian concerned.”

SECTION 19. *Separability Clause.* - any provision of this Act, or any parts thereof, is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other portions.

SECTION 20. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, proclamations, rules, regulations, issuances and enactments of parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 21. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, whichever comes earlier.

APPROVED.