

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5715



Introduced by HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.,
Representative, Senior Citizens Party-List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino citizens who are sixty (60) years old are automatically considered seniors. Most of them, though, are still mentally alert, physically able and productive. Senior citizens could be likened, as the saying goes, "like wine they mellow with age." Even biblical passages acknowledged the value and worth of older men. In Titus 2:2-3 "older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith and in steadfastness." Interestingly, in Psalm 92:14, "they still bear fruit in old age; they are even full of sap and green."

Inspired by these sayings, not to mention that the experiences of senior citizens accumulated through their work and experts in specialized fields can still be harnessed for productive purposes that enable them to contribute to the economic well-being of the community they serve and ultimately the country, this bill is being introduced. This bill also aims to address the great number of senior citizens who remained unemployed and idle, since given their obnoxious situation, they will deteriorate faster and become burdens to their family and the community.

In the barangay councils, the youth are properly represented, in the municipal, city councils and provincial boards, the youth, league of barangays, women, agricultural or industrial workers, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, or disabled persons are all given the opportunities to become members of the local government units specifically excluding the senior citizens sectors.

The role of senior citizens in every election is important, their collective participation wields power and strength. The political activity of senior citizens is a

great model of a healthy democracy claimed by Andrea Campbell, an American political analyst.

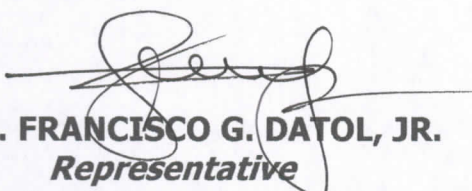
This bill is geared towards emphasizing the important role of older persons in nation-building and to raise and address issues concerning their sector and in response to the state's policy of giving full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of Philippine society.

Undoubtedly, the wealth of knowledge, skills, wisdom and enviable experiences of senior citizens could contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation that will benefit the country as a whole by making them members of the local government units.

The potential of older persons is a powerful basis for future development. This enables society to rely increasingly on the skills, experience and wisdom of older persons, not only to take the lead in their own betterment and also to participate actively in that of society as a whole (*Article 10, Political Declaration, 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain, 2002*).

The expectations of older persons and the economic needs of society demand that older persons be able to participate in the political life of their society.

Approval of this bill is most earnestly sought.



HON. FRANCISCO G. DATOL, JR.
Representative
Senior Citizens Party List

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AN ACT

**PROVIDING REPRESENTATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE DIFFERENT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT 7160, 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
assembled:*

Section 1. This Act shall be known as "**Senior Citizens in Local
Government Units Act.**"

Section 2. Section 390, Chapter 4. – The Sangguniang Barangay of the Local
Government Code of 1991 shall be amended and read as follows:

*"SEC. 390. Composition. - The sangguniang barangay, the
legislative body of the barangay, shall be composed of the punong
barangay as presiding officer, and the seven (7) regular sangguniang
barangay members elected at large and the sangguniang kabataan
chairman AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE SENIOR CITIZENS
SECTOR TO BE APPOINTED BY HEAD OF OSCA OF THE
CONCERNED BARANGAY FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF
VARIOUS SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE
BARANGAY, as members."*

Section 3. Representative from the senior citizens sector shall have the same duties, powers, benefits and responsibilities as a regular member of the sangguniang barangay.

Section 4. Section 446, Article Three, Sangguniang Bayan of the Local Government Code of 1991 shall be amended and read as follows:

"SEC. 446. Composition. – (a) The sangguniang bayan the legislative body of the municipality, shall be composed of the municipal vice-mayor as the presiding officer, the regular sangguniang bayan members, the president of the municipal chapter of the liga ng mga barangay, the president of the pambayang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan, and the sectoral representatives, as members.

*(b) In addition thereto, there shall be FOUR (4) sectoral representatives: one (1) from the women; and as shall be determined by the sangguniang concerned within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of local elections, one (1) from the agricultural or industrial workers, and one (1) from other sectors, including the urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, or disabled persons **AND ONE (1) FROM THE SENIOR CITIZENS SECTOR TO BE APPOINTED BY HEAD OF OSCA OF THE CONCERNED MUNICIPALITY FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF VARIOUS SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY.***

*(c) The regular members of the sangguniang bayan and the sectoral representatives shall be elected **OR APPOINTED** in the manner as may be provided for by law"*

Section 5. Representative from the senior citizens sector shall have the same duties, powers, benefits and responsibilities as a regular member of sangguniang bayan.

Section 6. Section 457, Article Three. – Sangguniang Panglungsod of the Local Government Code of 1991 shall be amended and read as follows:

*"**Section 457.** Composition. – (a) The sangguniang panlungsod, the legislative body of the city, shall be composed of the city vice-mayor*

as presiding officer, the regular sangguniang members, the president of the city chapter of the liga ng mga barangay, the president of the panlungsod na pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan, and the sectoral representatives, as members.

*(b) In addition thereto, there shall be **FOUR (4)** sectoral representatives: one (1) from the women; and as shall be determined by the sanggunian concerned within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of the local elections, one (1) from agricultural or industrial workers; one (1) from the other sectors, including the urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, or disabled persons **AND ONE (1) FROM SENIOR CITIZENS SECTOR TO BE APPOINTED BY HEAD OF OSCA OF THE CONCERNED CITY FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF VARIOUS SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS WITHI THE CITY.***

(c) The regular members of the sangguniang panlungsod and the sectoral representatives shall be elected OR APPOINTED in the manner as may be provided for by law."

Section 7. Representative from the senior citizens sector shall have the same duties, powers, benefits and responsibilities as a regular member of the sangguniang panlungsod.

Section 8. Section 467, Article Three, The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of the Local Government Code of 1991 shall be amended and read as follows:

"SEC. 467. Composition. – (a) The sangguniang panlalawigan, the legislative body of the province, shall be composed of the provincial vice governor as presiding officer, the regular sanggunian members, the president of the provincial chapter of the liga ng mga barangay, the president of the panlalawigang pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan, the president of the provincial federation of sangguniang members of municipalities and component cities and the sectoral representatives, as members.

*(b) In addition thereto, there shall be **FOUR (4)** sectoral representatives: one (1) from the women; and as shall be determined by the sanggunian concerned within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of the local elections, one (1) from the agricultural or industrial workers;*

one (1) from other sectors including the urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, or disabled persons **AND ONE (1) FROM THE SENIOR CITIZENS SECTOR TO BE APPOINTED BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS COMMISSION OF THE CONCERNED REGION FROM THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF VARIOUS SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE REGION"**

*(c) The regular members of the sangguniang panlalawigan and the sectoral representatives shall be elected **OR APPOINTED** in the manner as may be provided for by law."*

Section 9. Representative from the senior citizens sector shall have the same duties, powers, benefits and responsibilities as a regular member of the sangguniang panlalawigan.

Section 10. The qualifications of a representative from the senior citizens sector to the local government units are:

- a. Must be a Filipino citizen;
- b. Must be a senior citizen as defined by law;
- c. Must be a registered voter;
- d. Must be a bona fide member of a senior citizens organization for at least six (6) months preceding the day of his/her appointment
- e. His/her senior organization must be registered and recognized by the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs and the Barangay of the place where he/she is being appointed;
- f. Must have a good moral character;
- g. Must not be convicted of any crime punishable by more than one (1) year of imprisonment and/or fine equivalent to One Thousand (P1,000.00) pesos.

Section 11. The Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs and the Barangay shall not refuse registration and recognition of senior citizens organization for any political reason. Neither would they impose difficult/technical and capricious requirements in giving said recognition. Otherwise, this may be a ground for their removal in office.

Section 12. Within six (6) months from approval of this Act, the Commission on Elections, in consultation with the National Senior Citizens Commission, the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, is tasked of drafting and formulation Rules and Regulations implementing the procedures in appointing representative from the senior citizens sector to local government units.

Section 13. All laws, decrees, executive orders rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 14. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,