

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5371



Introduced by **HON. JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create an elderly care and nursing facility for our beloved senior citizens in the Province of Cagayan.

Families who cannot take care of, provide for, take charge of their elderly relatives will now have an option on where they can place their relatives where they will be well cared for.

Filipino families have always been known as close-knit. We are known to take care of our aging relatives and provide for them until their death. But nowadays, many families especially those in the poverty line, have a difficult time in making ends meet for their family, much less, take care of an ailing elderly relative.

Sometimes, you will find these elderly on the streets, where their family left them to fend for themselves or who simply leave their own homes so they would not be a burden to their families anymore.

This center will give these elderly people a sense of dignity and belongingness and give them the care that they deserve in the twilight of their lives.

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


JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA

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HOUSE BILL NO. **5371**

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AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH AN ELDERLY CARE AND NURSING COMPLEX IN THE
PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN

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 "Cagayan Elderly Care and Nursing Home Act".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide elderly care and nursing home in every local government unit by providing quality and affordable care and nursing facilities to elderly Filipinos.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms will be defined as follows:

- a) Elderly - is a person who is sixty five (65) years old and above.
- b) Elderly Care - is the fulfilment of the special needs and requirements of the elderly.
- c) Nursing Complex - refers to the place and the facilities that are designated to provide skilled care to elderly twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

SECTION 4. *Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all elderly persons who wish to avail of the elderly care and nursing complex in the Province of Cagayan and/or whose family members cannot provide or meet the special needs and requirements of the elderly.

SECTION 5. *Location of Complex.* – The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall determine the area in the province on where to establish the proposed elderly care and nursing complex.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Government agencies and instrumentalities shall provide the necessary assistance and support to

fulfill the needs of the elderly care and nursing complex, such as but not limited to construction of the complex, provision of equipment and qualified manpower.

The Department of Health and the Department of Social Welfare and Development will formulate the rules and regulations, procedures and guidelines to be followed in admitting elderly persons in the facility. They will prescribe the necessary criteria for the determination if the elderly is qualified for admittance. They will also appoint the person or entity who will administer and supervise the elderly care and nursing complex.

SECTION 7. *Role of Family Members.* – Family members shall be provided with adequate information on the system as well as for sharing experiences to enable them to care for their elderly. They will also be informed on what their responsibilities when their elderly is admitted to the facility.

SECTION 8. *Personnel Recruitment and Incentives.* – All personnel involved in the Complex shall have adequate and appropriate education and training to be determined by the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, there is hereby appropriated the sum of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) from the General Appropriations Act for the current year for the initial construction and purchase of equipment. Thereafter, the appropriation for such as may be necessary for the purpose shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act. The Department of Social Welfare and Development Regional Office will act as fund custodian for this purpose.

SECTION 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not effected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,