

SENATE

'22 JUL 18 P4:48

S.B. No. 729

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Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

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**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 16 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 5 of the Philippine Constitution declares that the promotion of the people's general welfare is essential to the enjoyment "of the blessings of democracy."

Thus, the State must find and take advantage of every opportunity available with which it can improve the welfare and condition of its people. In pursuit of this objective, the State seeks the aid of local governments, which have been its constant and most important partner in delivering essential and basic social services to the people. Under Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991, police power for the promotion of the general welfare of the people has been delegated in favor of local governments. Section 16, however, is couched in general terms to give local governments the leeway and freedom to focus and prioritize issues which are most pressing in their jurisdictions.

This bill seeks to amend the existing provision of Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991 by strengthening the initiatives of the State, through the local governments, toward promoting the welfare of senior citizens and persons with disability. Specifically, the proposed amendments mandate local governments to formulate policies and implement welfare programs, including healthcare benefits, and programs intended to maximize employment opportunities for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The amendments also ensure their convenient and priority access to government services, welfare programs, utilities, and facilities.

Indeed, improving the plight of and giving extra care to our senior citizens and persons with disability are equally pressing. The State must invest not only in their care but also in ensuring their full integration as productive members thereof.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
First Regular Session



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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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:*

1           **SECTION 1.** Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the  
2 Local Government Code of 1991, is hereby amended to read as follows:  
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4           **Section 16. General Welfare.** - Every local government unit shall  
5 exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied  
6 therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for  
7 its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to  
8 the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial  
9 jurisdictions, local government units shall ensure and support, among  
10 other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote  
11 health and safety, **INCLUDING PROGRAMS FOR THE PROVISION**  
12 **OF FREE HEALTHCARE TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS**  
13 **WITH DISABILITY**, enhance the right of the people to a balanced  
14 ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and  
15 self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public  
16 morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full  
17 employment among their residents, **INCLUDING SENIOR CITIZENS**  
18 **AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY**, maintain peace and order, and  
19 preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants. **IN ALL**  
20 **CASES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL ENSURE THAT**  
21 **SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITY ARE**  
22 **GRANTED CONVENIENT, EASY, AND PRIORITY ACCESS TO**  
23 **SOCIAL AND OTHER SERVICES, FACILITIES AND OTHER**  
24 **UTILITIES.**  
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**SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government, in consultation with other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.*** – 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,**