

**Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City**

**Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session**

**House Bill No. 3038**



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**Introduced by Representatives  
ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING AND HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

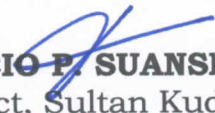
The Philippines is steadily aging, with more than 5 million Filipinos who are over 65 years old. Laws have been put in place to ensure that the welfare of our senior citizens will be protected, such as Republic Act No. 10645, providing for mandatory PhilHealth coverage for senior citizen, and Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, which provides for social pension to indigent senior citizens to augment their daily subsistence and other medical needs.

However, more than half of the country's senior citizens receive no pension, whether contributory or social.<sup>1</sup> The increasing health risks, limited livelihood opportunities and rising costs of services put our senior citizens in a most vulnerable position.

This bill seeks to address these concerns by increasing the monthly social pension of senior citizens from P500.00 to P1,000.00, as well as expand its coverage to include all senior citizens without any form of pension, and will be reviewed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management and other relevant stakeholders.

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

  
**REP. ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija

  
**REP. HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat

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<sup>1</sup> Coalition of Services of the Elderly

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**AN ACT  
INCREASING THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS  
AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE THEREOF**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act Nos. 9257 and 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", is hereby further amended to read as follows:

*"Sec. 2. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:*

*"x x x*

*"[(h) indigent senior citizen refers to any elderly who is frail, sickly, or with disability, and without pension or permanent source of income, compensation or financial assistance from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board.]*

**"(H) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE MONTHLY STIPEND OR MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO AUGMENT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) PER MONTH."**

**SEC. 2.** Section 5 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

*"Sec. 5. Government Assistance. – The government shall provide the following:*

*"x x x*



1 “(h) Additional Government Assistance

2 “(1) Social Pension

3 “[Indigent] **ALL** senior citizens **WITHOUT PENSION** shall be entitled  
4 to a monthly [stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos (P500.00)]  
5 **SOCIAL PENSION OF AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PESOS**  
6 **(P1,000.00)** to augment the daily subsistence and other medical  
7 needs of senior citizens [, subject to a review every two (2) years by  
8 Congress, in consultation with DSWD].

9 **“THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE REVIEWED AND,**  
10 **WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUSTED OR INCREASED BY THE DSWD**  
11 **EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT,**  
12 **IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND**  
13 **MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS,**  
14 **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR**  
15 **CITIZENS, THE NATIONAL INFLATION RATE, AND OTHER**  
16 **RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND**  
17 **PUBLISHED BY THE PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR**  
18 **AUTHORITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL**  
19 **NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN**  
20 **THIS ACT.**

21 **“THE COVERAGE OF THE SOCIAL PENSION PROGRAM SHALL**  
22 **ALSO BE REVIEWED BY THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH**  
23 **DBM AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, AND WHEN**  
24 **NECESSARY, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO ARE**  
25 **RECEIVING BELOW BASIC PENSION.**

26 X X X

27 **SEC. 3. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid  
28 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue  
29 to be in full force and effect.

30 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and  
31 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
32 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

33 **SEC. 5. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
34 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general  
35 circulation.

Approved,