

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**First Regular Session**

6038  
**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**



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Introduced by **HONORABLE STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**

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**AN ACT GRANTING MANDATORY SOCIAL PENSION FOR ALL  
SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC  
ACT NO.7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 9257 AND  
9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'EXPANDED SENIOR  
CITIZENS ACT OF 2010'**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It is incumbent upon the State to enact laws that provide substantive social protection to our senior citizens. Article XV, Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates that: "It is the duty of the family to take care of its older person members, while the State may design programs of social security for them."

Senior citizens continue to play a key role in the Philippine economy. Based on the Census of Population and Housing, there are about 7.55 million Filipinos who are at least 60 years old as of 2015. According to the 2016 Labor Force Survey (LFS), 45 percent of senior citizens reported to be employed. Of these employed senior citizens, 29 percent are self-employed professionals while 23 percent are self-employed non-professionals. Hence, a sizeable number of senior citizens can continue to engage in economic activity even beyond the age of 65. Moreover, within Filipino families, senior citizens provide childcare, an important factor contributing to labor force participation by younger individuals belonging to productive age groups. Grandparents often taking on the responsibility of childcare frees up other family members for outside work without compromising child welfare. According to the 2016 LFS, 22 percent of households with members who are OFWs are headed by senior citizens and have children left behind. This suggests senior citizens provide the critically needed child care for those left behind by OFW parents.

With age also comes an increased likelihood of disease and medical expenses, and hence, increased vulnerability to poverty. Based on the 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey, 31 percent of senior citizens reported illness in the last month. This is 17.5 percentage points higher than the proportion for individuals below 60 years old. Data further suggest that senior citizens are vulnerable to financial risks arising from illness. Only about 30 percent of senior citizens in the




country receive pensions based on their previous work history.<sup>1</sup> The bulk of these recipients are SSS or GSIS beneficiaries.

There is a pressing need for our government to take further steps in securing social protection for our senior citizens, especially considering that our population is expected to continue aging in the coming years. A study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies estimates that the proportion of Filipinos aged 60 and above will increase from 7.4 percent in 2015 to 11.4 percent by 2030 and 15.9 percent by 2045.<sup>2</sup>

Recognizing the rights and welfare of senior citizens, as well as their valuable contributions to society, Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act was passed in 2010. This law provides senior citizens with several benefits, including a monthly social pension in the amount of P500.00 to augment their daily subsistence and medical needs. Only indigent senior citizens, as defined under Section 2(i),<sup>3</sup> are currently entitled to such social pension. However, the selection of beneficiaries is not well-targeted, due to a selection process that is incumbent upon the recommendation of the Office of Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA). According to the Omnibus Guidelines of the DSWD, the DSWD identifies beneficiaries based on a consolidated list submitted by the OSCA.<sup>4</sup> Such a system of selection of beneficiaries is prone to leakages (e.g. inclusion and exclusion errors). Hence, many indigent senior citizens continue to lack social protection despite the provision of Republic Act No. 9994 on social pension.

This bill seeks to render eligibility of social pension as mandatory for all Filipino senior citizens. Based on a total of approximately 8 million seniors in the population, with 70 percent not yet covered by contributory pension schemes, and a monthly pension of P500.00 per beneficiary, this measure will require a total budget of approximately P34 billion, or an increase of P11 billion from the appropriations for social pensions in 2020.<sup>5</sup>

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

  
**STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO**  
Representative  
Second District, Marikina City

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<sup>1</sup> HelpAge International. (2017). The Feasibility of A Universal Social Pension in the Philippines.

<sup>2</sup> Reyes, et. al. (2019). Silver Linings for the Elderly in the Philippines: Policies and Programs for Senior Citizens. Discussion Paper Series No. 2019-09. Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

<sup>3</sup> Section 2(h) of Republic Act No. 9994 defines indigent senior citizens as "...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."

<sup>4</sup> Department of Social Welfare and Development Memorandum Circular 2019-04

<sup>5</sup> 2020 General Appropriations Act

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1 **AN ACT GRANTING MANDATORY SOCIAL PENSION FOR SENIOR**  
2 **CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT**  
3 **NO.7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 9257 AND 9994,**  
4 **OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT**  
5 **OF 2010'**

6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines*  
7 *in Congress assembled:*  
8  
9

10 **SECTION 1. Definition of Social Pension and Social Pension Provider. -**

11 Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act Nos. 9257  
12 and 9994, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

13 “Section 2. *Definition of Terms* - For the purposes of this Act, these terms are  
14 defined as follows:

15 “XXX

16 **(I) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO A NON-CONTRIBUTORY**  
17 **MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT**  
18 **THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR**  
19 **CITIZENS WHICH SHALL AMOUNT TO NO LESS THAN ONE**  
20 **THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (P500) PER MONTH.**



1       **(J) PENSION PROVIDER REFERS TO ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE OR**  
2       **AGENCY OR ANY PRIVATE ENTITY WHICH PROVIDES PENSIONS**  
3       **TO ENTITLED RECIPIENTS ON THE BASIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS,**  
4       **GRATUITY, OR AS MANDATED BY ANY GOVERNING LAW OR**  
5       **ISSUANCE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE SOCIAL**  
6       **SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE**  
7       **INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) AND THE PENSION AND GRATUITY**  
8       **MANAGEMENT CENTER (PGMC), AMONG OTHERS.**

9       **SECTION 2. Mandatory Social Pension** – Section 5 of Republic Act No.  
10       7432, as amended by Republic Act Nos. 9257 and 9994, is hereby further  
11       amended to read as follows:

12       “Section 5. *Government Assistance* - The government shall provide the  
13       following:

14       “xxx

15       **(I) MANDATORY SOCIAL PENSION**

16       [Indigent] **ALL** [senior citizens,] **INDIVIDUALS NOT RECEIVING A**  
17       **PENSION FROM ANY PENSION PROVIDER SHALL, UPON**  
18       **REACHING THE AGE OF 60, BE AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLED TO**  
19       **RECEIVE** a monthly **SOCIAL PENSION.**

20  
21       **THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL AMOUNT TO NO LESS THAN FIVE**  
22       **HUNDRED PESOS (P500) to [augment] SUPPORT [the] THEIR** daily  
23       subsistence and medical needs. [of senior citizens subject to a

1 review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the  
2 DSWD].

3  
4 **ANY SENIOR CITIZEN MAY OPT NOT TO RECEIVE THE**  
5 **MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION. ALL UNCOLLECTED PENSIONS**  
6 **SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY REMITTED TO THE OFFICE OF**  
7 **THE SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS. THE REMITTED AMOUNT**  
8 **WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR**  
9 **SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAMS.**

10  
11 **THE DSWD SHALL ROSTER INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE**  
12 **FOR THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION BASED ON A CENTRAL**  
13 **DATABASE WHICH INCLUDES THE CENSUS OF POPULATION**  
14 **AND HOUSING AND A COMPILATION OF THE BENEFICIARIES**  
15 **OF ALL PENSION PROVIDERS. THE SSS, GSIS, PGMC AND**  
16 **OTHER PENSION PROVIDERS SHALL PROVIDE THE DSWD**  
17 **WITH ACCESS TO THEIR ROSTER OF BENEFICIARIES EVERY**  
18 **MONTH FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS**  
19 **AUTHORITY WILL LIKEWISE PROVIDE THE DSWD WITH**  
20 **TIMELY ACCESS TO PERTINENT DATA FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

21  
22 **THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
23 **BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AS WELL AS OTHER**  
24 **STAKEHOLDERS, SHALL REVIEW AND WHEN NECESSARY,**  
25 **ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION EVERY TWO (2)**



1           **YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, TAKING INTO**  
2           **ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND**  
3           **RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND**  
4           **PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND**  
5           **AUTHORITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL**  
6           **NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN**  
7           **THIS ACT.”**

8   **SECTION 3. Appropriations.** – The necessary funds for the mandatory social  
9   pension shall be added to the appropriations of the DSWD budget in the  
10   annual General Appropriations Act after the passage of this Act into law. One  
11   percent (1%) of the annual incremental income tax revenues of the national  
12   government shall be earmarked for purposes of supplementing funds for the  
13   mandatory social pension, each year upon the effectivity of the Act.

14   **SECTION 4. Repealing Clause** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules  
15   and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are  
16   hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

17   **SECTION 5. Separability Clause** – If any provision of this Act is declared  
18   unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provision hereof not affected shall  
19   continue in full force and effect.

20   **SECTION 6. Effectivity** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following  
21   its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

1 Approved,