

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6298



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**Introduced by Representative Romulo “Kid” Peña, Jr.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Caring for our elderly is a tradition deeply ingrained in our nation’s culture. This care is embodied in no less than our Constitution. Article XIII, Section 12 provides that the State shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services to people at an affordable cost. That the needs of the underprivileged, sick, and elderly, among others, shall be prioritized. This mandate is further bolstered by Article XV Section 4 which states that the family has the duty to care for its elderly members, but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.

According to the Commission on Population, as of 2018, there are 8,013,059 Filipinos over 60, constituting 8.2% of Filipinos. Of this group, 5,082,049 are 65 and older. This significant number of elderly citizens constitute a group that needs additional protection from the State.


In a 2016 study published by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), at least 54% or over of the elderly population do not receive any pension at all. Specifically, the said findings showed that 29% of senior citizens receive pension based on their working history (SSS, GSIS, etc.) and that only 17% are social pensioners at PHP 500 per month.

Republic Act No. 9944, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizen’s Act of 2010”, was enacted to operationalize the ideal of social justice for our elders. Although this landmark legislation has undoubtedly helped improve the quality of life of our senior citizens, it may still be improved upon.

This bill seeks to expand the coverage of the Expanded Senior Citizen's Act of 2010 by eliminating the unnecessary limitation of providing a stipend only to senior citizens who are frail, sickly, or with disability, and without pension. It is clear in our Constitution that the needs of our elderly shall be prioritized, not just those who are sick and disabled. This bill aims to comply with the constitutional mandate by providing that all senior citizens without pension shall be entitled to a social pension of at least one thousand pesos to augment their budget for their daily subsistence and other needs.

Our elders have cared for us in our youth and helped build our nation into what it is today. It is up to the government to return the favor.

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



**ROMULO "KID" PEÑA, JR.**



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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 No. 9257 and Republic Act No. 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 BE USED FOR THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) PER MONTH.”**

**SECTION 2.** Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257 and Republic Act No. 9994, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. Government Assistance. - The government shall provide the following:

“x x x”

“(h) Additional Government Assistance

“(i) Social Pension

~~[Indigent]~~ ALL senior citizens **WITHOUT PENSION** shall be entitled to a monthly ~~[stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos Php500.00]~~ **SOCIAL PENSION OF AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND (PHP 1,000)** to be used for the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens ~~[- subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD.]~~

**“THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE REVIEWED AND, WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUSTED OR INCREASED BY THE DSWD EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, THE NATIONAL INFLATION RATE, AND OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR AUTHORITIES; PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT.**

“x x x”

**SECTION 3. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 5. Effectivity.** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,