

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

5173

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Representative ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been seven years since Congress enacted Republic Act 9994 or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" amending Republic Act 7432 as amended, otherwise known as "An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and For Other Purposes" giving more benefits for our senior citizens.

As stated in Section 1 of R.A. 7432 as amended further by R.A. 9994, it is the "policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life." The same law reiterates the Constitutional provisions stating that the priority of the State is to address the needs of the under privilege, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children; and the State may design programs of social security for senior citizens.


R.A. 9994 provides that a social pension be granted to indigent senior citizens as an additional government program and should be reviewed biennially by Congress, and as aforementioned, Congress has not made any review in the past seven (7) years. Thus making it imperative for Congress to look into the said program, especially the amount provided for in the law in view of the inflation rate for the past seven years.

However, indigent senior citizens are not the only sector of senior citizens that need assistance to cope up with rising costs of health services and supplies, and other social services. Even those that are receiving pension from GSIS or SSS, have a source of income or support from families or relatives are also experiencing erosion of their economic capacity to cope up with the increase in cost of living for an elderly person. They also need assistance from government.

Furthermore, it is also high time that government and as society recognizes the significant contributions to the country made by our senior citizens. In their old age and frailty of body and mind, senior citizens whether indigent, lower income and middle income are all vulnerable to sudden changes in prices and cost of living, giving them more stressors.

This measure intends to expand the coverage of the social pension program as provided for by R.A. 9994 through amending the law and increasing the amount to be received by the senior citizens in a socialized manner by providing a proviso that the amount to be received by indigent senior citizens should be at least doubled the amount received by other senior citizens.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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House Bill No. 5173

Introduced by Rep. ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS PENSION PROGRAM AND INCREASING ITS AMOUNT, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

Section 1. Objectives. – The objectives of this act is to expand the coverage of the senior citizen pension program and increase the amount received by the senior citizens as defined in R.A. 9994 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010".

Section 2. Expanding the Coverage of the Senior Citizen Social Pension. – Section 5, paragraph (h), sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) of R.A. 7432 as amended by R.A. 9257 and further amended by R.A. 9994 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" 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

"(1) Social Pension

"All senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to One thousand pesos (Php 1,000.00) to augment

the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, subject to review of every two (2) years by DSWD and shall propose to Congress reasonable adjustments.

However, indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to twice the aforementioned amount or amount granted to non-indigent senior citizens and shall be subject to adjustments due to inflation in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the DSWD.

X X X

Section 3. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to effectively carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the DSWD. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the succeeding General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Social Work and Development (DSWD) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. – All law, executive orders, rules and regulations or any part hereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Separability Clause. – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional and invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,