



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4057



Introduced by **HON. JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE “Jaye” R. LACSON - NOEL**
Malabon City, Lone District

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognises the vital role of everyone towards nation-building, specially those who once dedicated their time, effort and resources to further improve and develop the socio-economic state of our country.

Ninety percent (90%) of our population continues to work hard for a living, the ten percent (10%) is considered to be frail, sickly and immobilised due to old age.

The State is mandated to design programs for social security¹ and promote social justice in all phases of national development². Further, the State is mandated to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers³.

According to the 2018 statement of Commission on Population (POPCOM)⁴, there are more than eight million (8,000,000) Filipinos over sixty (60) or about 8.2% of our one hundred one million (101,000,000) estimated total population based on the recent release of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as of July 2019⁵.

¹ ARTICLE XV, Section 4. 1987 Constitution

² ARTICLE II, Section 10. 1987 Constitution

³ ARTICLE XIII, Section 11. 1987 Constitution

⁴ <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/01/03/18/philippines-moving-toward-aging-population-popcom>

⁵ <https://psa.gov.ph/population-and-housing/node/138311>

In 1992, Republic Act No. 7432 was enforced to law in order to recognise the contribution of senior citizens to nation building by granting them benefits and special privileges. In 2004, it was amended to include more non-monetary benefits, tax holidays, among others. In 2010, it was further amended to include the social pension benefit amounting to five hundred pesos (P500) per month to qualified beneficiaries.

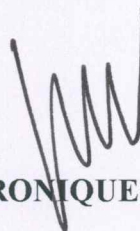
Unfortunately, with the increasing value of our basic commodities and the improvement of medicinal requirements among medical institutions for our elders, the above-mentioned Republic Act is no longer attuned to our present socioeconomic state. While there have been numerous efforts to further expand the programs for our seniors, whether through NGOs or other private institutions, there are still so much to be done.

It is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the state is mandated to design programs for social security for them.

Sad as it may sound, 21.6% of our population lives below the national poverty line.⁶ In a publication issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority last April 2019, in the first semester of 2018, a family of five needed no less than PhP 7,337, on average, to meet the family's basic food needs for a month. This amount is the food threshold. On the other hand, no less than PhP 10,481, on average, was needed to meet both basic food and non-food needs of a family of five in a month. This amount is the poverty threshold. These are 10.9 percent higher than the food and poverty thresholds from the first semester of 2015.⁷

This simply shows how inadequate the present social pension is. Filipino families can barely afford their daily subsistence, more so, the wholistic care for our elders as mandate by the Constitution and our conscience.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE "Jaye" R. LACSON - NOEL

⁶ <https://www.adb.org/countries/philippines/poverty>

⁷ <https://www.adb.org/countries/philippines/poverty>



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Introduced by **HON. JOSEPHINE VERONIQUE “Jaye” R. LACSON - NOEL**
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**AN ACT INCREASING
THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'EXPAND-
ED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010'**

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

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

SEC. 2. *Definition of terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

Xxx

[“(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.”]

SECTION 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257, further amended by Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,” is further amended to hereby read as follows:

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

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“(h) Additional Government Assistance

“(1) Social Pension

~~Indigent~~ **ALL** senior citizens **WITHOUT PENSION OR WHO ARE RECEIVING PENSION OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000) AND BELOW FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYTEM (GSIS), SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTM (SSS) AND PENSION AND GRATUITY MANAGEMENT CENTER (PGMC)** shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to ~~Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)~~ **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P1,500)** to augment 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.

SECTION 3. *Appropriations.* - The Department of Social Welfare and Development, after it conducts a thorough study and targeting of all the senior citizens as beneficiaries, shall recommend an estimated amount to accommodate more poor and abandoned elderlies. An initial amount of one billion pesos (P1,000,000,000) shall be released by the government to support the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this act is subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and 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 complete publication either in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,