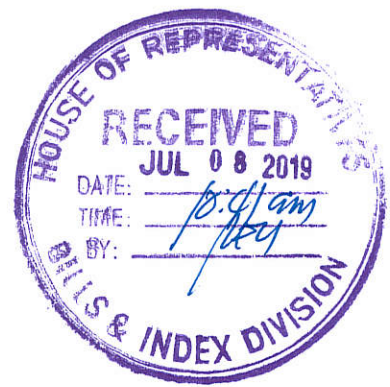


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 1565



Introduced by HONORABLE ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Commission on Population (POPCOM) has projected that the number of senior citizens in the country will surpass 8 million by the end of the 2018. Out of the 8 million elderlies, 5 million – or 4.7% of the entire population – are aged 65 years or older. This estimate puts us closer to being tagged as an aging population since, according to the Commission, aging countries have at least 7% of their overall population over 65 years old.

In the next decades, the number of elderly population is expected to reach 11.7 million by 2025, and 22.6 million in 2045. Thus, to ensure the welfare of our senior citizens, Republic Act No. 10645, which gave mandatory PhilHealth coverage for all senior citizens, and Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 which – along with the 20% discount and VAT exemption on medical-related expenses, transportation, food, and others – provided for social pension to our indigent senior citizens, were passed.

However, according to a study by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), more than half of the country's senior citizens receive no pension – whether contributory or social. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority 2015 Data, around 13.2 percent of the senior citizens are living in poverty due to lack of job opportunities past the age of 60. Thus, extending pension coverage and increasing the pension itself is an imminent priority especially for a country facing the impending challenge of an aging population.

This bill intends to amend RA 9994 in order to a) increase the amount of social pension that our senior citizens are receiving from ₱500 per month to ₱1,000 per month, and b) widen the coverage of beneficiaries to include those without any form of pension. This will provide social protection to an estimate 78% vulnerable senior citizens.

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


ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

H. B. No. 1565

Introduced by HONORABLE ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

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:

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

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

6 "x x x

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

13 **"(h) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE MONTHLY STIPEND OR**
14 **MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO AUGMENT THE**
15 **DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR**
16 **CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND**
17 **PESOS (₱1,000.00) PER MONTH."**

18 Sec. 2. Section 5 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read
19 as follows:

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

22 "x x x

23 "(h) Additional Government Assistance

24 "(1) Social Pension

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

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

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

24 XXX."

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

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

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

Approved,