

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



Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 0132

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Introduced by **REP. MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It is said that the true measure of a nation's character can be determined from the manner by which it treats its senior citizens. After a lifetime of nurturing of our nation's youth and contributing to the development of our nation, our senior citizens more than deserve to live the rest of their days secure in the knowledge that they shall be well taken care of by a grateful nation. It is therefore our duty and privilege as their children to give them this final gift.

For all the laws that have been passed for the benefit of Senior Citizens, the senior citizens of this nation still count among the poorest sectors in Philippine society. In fact, as recent as five years ago, senior citizens have the sixth highest poverty incidence among the eight basic sectors in the Philippines.

While pensions have remained stagnant in recent years and with most of the working population of senior citizens belonging to the informal sectors (thus not covered by pensions) - compounded by the fact that health expenditures are barely subsidized, it remains an established fact that our senior citizens simply do not have enough since prices of commodities, medicines and health care constantly increase over time. In fact, for 2012 alone, the poverty incidence with regard to senior citizens is at 15.2 for the lower limit and 17.2 for the upper limit.

To enable our senior citizens to stretch their already meager spending capacity for their basic and medical needs, this bill seeks to introduce assistance to our senior citizens on the form of additional safety nets such as food subsidies or assistance. This way, the savings that they realize from this additional assistance can then be devoted for other expenses such as the purchase of medicines or the availment of medical services.

Thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

**MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI**  
Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> District, Bukidnon

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOOD SUBSIDY EVERY QUARTER TO SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE FORM OF ONE (1) SACK OF RICE AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"**

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

**Section 1.** Section 5, sub-paragraph h(3) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. Government Assistance. – The government shall provide the following:

"xxx

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) xxx

"(2) xxx

"(3) Social Safety Nets

"Senior citizens shall receive one (1) sack of rice every quarter as food assistance to enable them to extend their already limited financial capacity for their other needs. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall issue guidelines to determine the senior citizens qualified for food subsidy subject of this Act.

"Social safety assistance intended to cushion the effects of economic shocks, disasters and calamities shall also be available for senior citizens. The social safety assistance which shall include, but not limited to, food, medicines, and financial assistance for domicile repair, shall be sourced from the disaster/calamity funds of LGUs where the senior citizens reside, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DSWD."

**Section 2. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

**Section 3. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,