

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5632



**Introduced by Representatives Paolo Z. Duterte,
Isidro T. Ungab and Vincent J. Garcia**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide social pension to all senior citizens in the country.

Section 4, Article XV of the Constitution provides 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.*"

Republic Act (RA) No. 7432, as amended by RA 9994, otherwise known as the "*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*," provides for social pension for indigent senior citizens to augment their daily subsistence and other medical needs. Many elderly members of the community were grateful for the assistance which gave them relief. However, a large number of senior citizens are still excluded from the program. Paragraph (h) (1), Section 5 of RA 7432, as amended, mentioned that the social pension for indigent senior citizens is P500.00.

Under the law, an indigent person refers to any elderly who is frail, sickly or with disability, and without pension or permanent source of income, compensation or financial assistance from relatives to support the indigent person's basic needs, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). This excludes other senior citizens who are not sick or disabled, and who have pension or other sources of income but who are nonetheless in dire need of additional assistance from the government because of the rising prices of basic commodities and medical services.

Senior members of the family continue to provide for their family. This gives them a strong sense of purpose and fulfillment that even as they are already in the twilight years of their lives, they do not burden their loved ones since they are able to take care of themselves.

Thus, this proposed measure seeks to grant the social pension, as an additional government assistance, to all senior citizens in the country, whether they are indigent or not. This will also ease the burden of the DSWD personnel and other local offices in the evaluation of senior citizens who will qualify to avail of the monthly social pension.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.



PAOLO Z. DUTERTE



ISIDRO T. UNGAB



VINCENT J. GARCIA

1 “ALL [~~Indigent~~] senior citizens shall be entitled to a
2 monthly stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)
3 to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of
4 senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by
5 Congress, in consultation with the DSWD.

6 “xxx.”

7 SEC. 2. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
8 Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in consultation with the
9 Department of Finance and Department of Health, issue the necessary
10 implementing rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

11 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
12 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

13 Approved,