

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4650



Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipinos have an innate deep regard and respect for our elders. It is ingrained in our culture as well as reflected in our own Constitution where it is stated that it is familial duty to take care of our elderly. The State, in turn, provides for the protection and social services of such a vulnerable group as the elderly.

Although valued and respected for their wisdom and experiences, the Filipino elderly still encounter challenges to their daily living due to their old age. Legislated measures have been provided by the State to provide for their safety and security. However, they still face financial problems as they are unable to work for a living wage. With inflation and rising cost of goods, it is getting harder for our senior citizens to live comfortably as they can at their age. Financial support from pensions such as the Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System has proven not enough.

This bill seeks to lighten the financial burden of our elders by providing for a Universal Social Pension for all senior citizens. It amends the relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" and mandates the provision of an increased pension of Php 1,500. This would apply to all senior citizens to augment their daily subsistence and other needs. However, senior citizens covered by the SSS, GSIS, or Military Veteran's pension will only be covered 3 years after the effectivity of the proposed Act in order to help buffer the government's budget.

The approval of this bill, filed as a counterpart to Senator Poe's version in the Senate, is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4650

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS,
FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY
R.A. NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS
ACT OF 2010"

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

SECTION 1. Number (1), Paragraph (H), Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. *Government Assistance.*- The government shall provide
the following:

"(a) Employment

x x x

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) Social Pension

"~~[Indigent]~~ **ALL** senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly
stipend amounting to ~~[Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)]~~ **AT LEAST
ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP1,500.00)** to augment
[the] **THEIR** daily subsistence and other medical needs. ~~[of senior
citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in
consultation with the DSWD.]~~

PROVIDED, THAT SENIOR CITIZENS CURRENTLY COVERED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, AND THE PENSION SYSTEM FOR MILITARY VETERANS UNDER R.A. NO. 6948 SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS BENEFIT IN THE FIRST THREE (3) YEARS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.

WHEN NECESSARY, THE DSWD MAY INCREASE OR REVISE THE AMOUNT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEEDING PARAGRAPHS."

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,