

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

**Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 489



Introduced by Honorable Jose G. Solis

EXPLANATORY NOTE

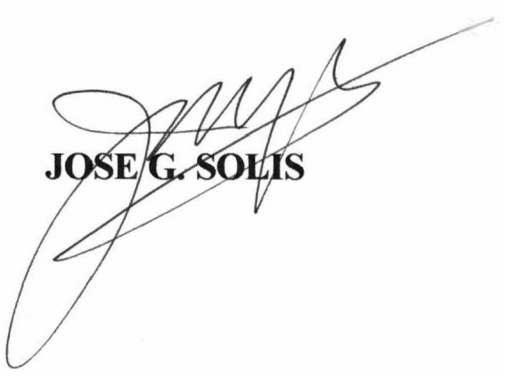
This bill seeks to impose stiffer penalties on pharmacies and drug stores which refuse to honor the senior citizen card issued by the government to senior citizens for availment of benefits and privileges granted under Republic Act No. 7432.

The Constitution mandates under Article XIII, Sec. II that "the State shall 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."

To effectively design specific programs for the elderly, Republic Act No. 7432 was passed into law. Among its provisions is the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount for the purchase of medicines by the elderly from all pharmacies and drugstores anywhere in the country.

However, most of these pharmacies and drug stores refuse to honor the senior citizen card. Some pharmacies and drugstores impose additional requirements before they sell medicines to the elderly which is not provided in the law. They require written authorization from the senior citizen, which is impractical as the sick senior citizen may not be able to write at that time.

Hence, pharmacies and drug stores should be sanctioned more severely for non-compliance of Republic Act No. 7432 considering that the life and death of a person, particularly the elderly, is involved. The approval of herein proposal is strongly recommended.



JOSE G. SOLIS

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

**Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 489

Introduced by Honorable Jose G. Solis

**AN ACT
IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES ON PHARMACIES AND DRUG
STORES WHICH REFUSE TO HONOR SENIOR CITIZEN CARD
ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

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

Section 1. In addition to the appropriate penalties provided under Republic Act No. 7432, the owner, manager and/or employee of any pharmacy and drug store who refuses to honor the senior citizen card issued by the government shall, if found guilty, be punished with a fine of not less than one thousand pesos (P1,000) nor more than five thousand pesos (P5,000) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) month nor more than six (6) months or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Further, the franchise or permit to operate of the pharmacy or drug store concerned may be suspended or cancelled.

Section 2. The Office for the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) shall upon complaint, assist the senior citizen concerned in filing a complaint against any pharmacy or drug store with the City or Municipal Trial Court.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.