

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2109



Introduced by Honorable Antonio V. Cuenco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

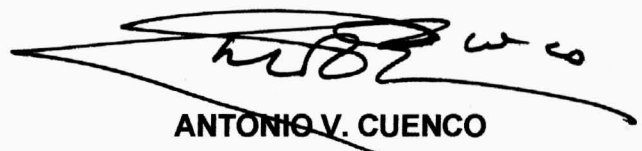
This bill seeks to impose stiffer penalties on drug stores which refuse to honor the senior citizen card issued by the government to senior citizens for availments of benefits and privileges granted under Republic Act No. 7432.

Republic Act No. 7432 was passed into law in response to the Constitutional mandate for the State to take care of the elderly through just programs of social security. The law aims, among others, to establish a program beneficial to senior citizens. It provides for privileges for senior citizens such as, but not limited to, grant of twenty percent (20%) discount from all establishments relative to the utilization of transportation services, hotels and similar lodging establishment, restaurants and recreation centers, and the purchase of medicines anywhere in the country.

It is observed, however, that the law is not fully implemented. Some business establishments fail or refuse to recognize the senior citizens card presented to them, most prominent of which are drug stores. Some of these drug stores do not honor the senior citizen card issued by the government, while others impose time limit to avail of the senior citizens discount and there are those which impose impractical requirements. An example is the requirement for an authorization form from a senior citizen who may be seriously ill and cannot even write a single letter much more sign an authorization.

Furthermore, it is to be noted that the law is silent on how a complaint against such drug stores can be lodged or where to file the same, for which reason no offender has been charged and punished.

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


ANTONIO V. CUENCO

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AN ACT

**IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES TO DRUG STORES WHICH REFUSE TO
HONOR SENIOR CITIZEN CARDS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR
AVAILMENT OF BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES GRANTED TO SENIOR CITIZENS.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 drug store which refuses to honor the senior citizen card issued by the government to avail of the twenty percent (20%) discount 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 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 drug store with the City or Municipal Trial Court.

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

Approved,

