

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



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HB No. 3128

Introduced by Honorable Proceso "Procy" J. Alcala

EXPLANATORY NOTE

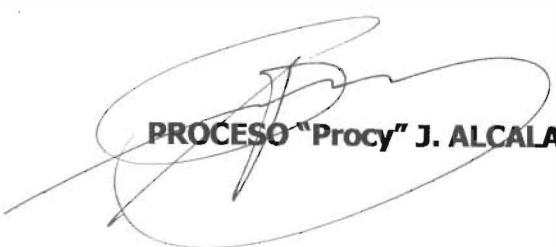
This bill seeks to provide a reasonable death benefit assistance to the nearest surviving relatives of a deceased senior citizens in the amount of five thousand pesos (5,000.00) amending for the purpose Section 4 of RA 9257, known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003," to include a new subsection (n).

The elderly population continues to grow, both in absolute number and as a proportion of the total population. The 2000 Philippine National Census placed the population of older persons 60 years old and above as 5.97% or 4,564,846 million of the total population of 76,485,088 million. The number is expected to increase to 7.7 million by the year 2025. From the current 5% of the total population aged 60 years old and above, the proportion is expected to rise to 14% in year 2030. By then, the 40 to 49 years old today will be joining the ranks of the elderly. The average life expectancy of today's Filipino has increased to 67.73 years for males and 70.38 years for females compared to 61 to 63 years old respectively two decades ago.

We know that the current government is in a financial crisis at this point in time; even austerity measures are observed in all government agencies, offices and other intermediaries; but we should not forget that most of the senior citizens' members who avails the privileges stated in the RA 9257 Section 4 belong to the most impoverished citizens of our society. We have also experienced that prolonged interment is a common practice, not because of whatever traditional reasons but merely to raise more "abuloy" or donations to compensate for additional funds for burial. There are some cases wherein, this problem is even exploited by gambling operators, so as to raise additional burial fund in the form of "tong" for the surviving relatives of the deceased.

Furthermore, with the current ballooning price of a decent funeral services even more aggravate their impoverished situation. Least we could do is to abate the grief they have to endure for the loss of their love ones through this bill.

And finally, the support of this 13th Congress for the early passing of this bill is earnestly requested.


PROCESO "Procy" J. ALCALA

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A LUMP SUM DEATH BENEFIT ASSISTANCE TO THE NEAREST SURVIVING RELATIVES OF A DECEASED SENIOR CITIZEN IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (5,000.00) AS AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of RA 9257, also known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003," is hereby amended to include an additional subsection (n) after Section 4, subsection (m) to read as follows:

- (n) DEATH BENEFIT ASSISTANCE OF FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (5,000.00) SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE NEAREST SURVIVING RELATIVES OF A DECEASED SENIOR CITIZENS SUBJECT TO GUIDELINES BE ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD).**

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,