

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HB No. 5661



Introduced by **Suharto T. Mangudadatu**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

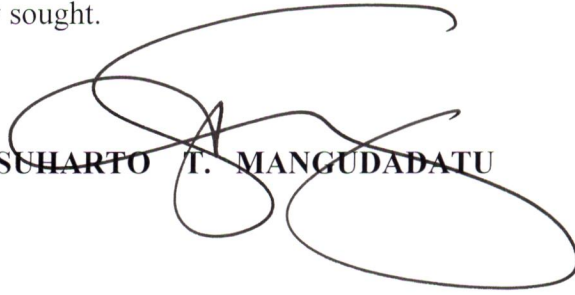
This bill seeks to amend Section 4, Subsection (e) of R.A. No. 7432, which provides among others, certain privileges of senior citizens, such as free medical and dental services in any government hospital.

Under R.A. No. 7432, one is qualified as a senior citizen upon reaching the age of 60. At this stage, signs of old age starts to manifest which often lead to serious ailments such as hypertension, rheumatism, heart disease, diabetes among others. Senior citizens require more care than ever, if not comprehensive medical supervision or hospitalization.

Unfortunately, hospitalization and confinement in a government hospital, which happen to be most needed and costly, is not included in the aforementioned benefits. To treat one's ailment demands a large amount of money, but then with the financial crisis we are experiencing, majority of our senior citizens cannot afford these expenses. Surely we cannot renege our responsibility to our senior citizens as an affirmation of our valued tradition of caring for them as mandated by the 1987 Constitution.

Extending free hospitalization benefits to all senior citizens is one major step for the government to reaffirm its covenant of protecting and promoting the right to health.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


SUHARTO T. MANGUDADATU

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**“AN ACT
GRANTING FREE HOSPITALIZATION TO SENIOR CITIZENS IN ANY
GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, SECTION
FOUR (e) OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY-FOUR HUNDRED AND
THIRTY- TWO.”**

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

Section 1. Section Four, Subsection (e) of Republic Act Numbered Seventy-Four
Hundred and Thirty-Two is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens.- The senior citizens shall be entitled
the following:

“X X X

“ (e) Free medical and dental services and FREE HOSPITALIZATION AND
CONFINEMENT in government [establishment] HOSPITAL anywhere in the
country, subject to guidelines to be issued by the Department of Health, the
Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System.”

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

Approved,