

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6101



INTRODUCED BY HON. ANTONIO V. CUENCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the most valued Filipino traditions is taking care of our elderly and ensuring their welfare in the twilight of their lives.

Republic Act No. 9257 provides that senior citizens shall be entitled to a 20% discount on the purchase of goods and services, medical and dental services, transport fare, funeral and burial services, among others.

However, with the imposition of the 12% value-added tax (VAT) on the sale of medicines and other goods on senior citizens, the 20% discount benefit mandated by law is not fully enjoyed. As a result, our elderly are only able to avail of an 8% discount instead of the full 20% provided for under the law.

This measure seeks to address this discrepancy. Hence, this bill proposes that the discount of senior citizens be increased from 20% to 34%. The new 34% discount rate is a necessary increase mechanism to compensate for the negative effect of VAT on their present discount rate.

The granting of benefits and additional security measures to our elderly is one way of ensuring their rights to be important sector of our society, empowering their capabilities to contribute to nation building despite their age and reaffirm the Filipino tradition of caring for our elderly.

It is for these reasons that the passage of this bill is strongly sought.


ANTONIO V. CUENCO

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGE OF SENIOR CITIZENS FROM
20% TO 34%, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7432 OR “AN ACT TO
MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION
BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES,” AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Republic Act 7432 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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

(a) the grant of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT (34%)** discount from all establishments relative to the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishment, restaurants and recreation centers, and purchase of medicines in all establishments for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens, including funeral and burial services for the death of senior citizens;

(b) a minimum of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT (34%)** discount on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert ha&, circuses, carnivals, and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusement for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens;

(c) xxx;

(d) xxx;



(e) xxx;

(f) the grant of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT (34%)** discount on medical and dental services, and diagnostic and laboratory fees provided under Section 4 (e) hereof, including professional fees of attending doctors in all private hospitals and medical facilities, in accordance with the rules and regulations to be issued by the Department of Health, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation;

(g) the grant of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT (34%)** discount in fare for domestic air and sea travel for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens;

(h) the grant of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR PERCENT (34%)** discount in public railways, skyways and bus fare for the exclusive use and enjoyment of senior citizens;

(i) xxx;

(j.) xxx;

(k.) xxx;

(l.) xxx; and

(m.) xxx.

SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development jointly with the Department of Finance, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Health, the Department of Transportation and Communications shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* - All provisions of laws, orders, and decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and/ or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in one (1) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

