

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2930

Introduced by Rep. Godofredo V. Arquiza and Rep. David L. Kho

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to strengthen Republic Act No. 9994 otherwise known as **"Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010"**.

Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

"The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

We recognize that the senior citizens had made valuable contributions to our country, and existing laws have granted benefits for them, significantly, Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" which gives full support to the well-being of the elderly, by granting them twenty percent (20%) discount from all establishments relative to the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants, 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, as well as on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses, concert halls, circuses, carnivals, and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusement, as well as on medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees provided under Section 4 (e) thereof, including professional fees of attending doctors in all private hospitals and medical facilities; fare for domestic air and sea travel, in public railways, skyways and bus fare; and basic commodities;

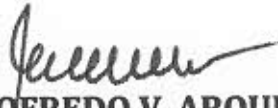
Many business establishments refused to grant the 20 percent discount on the aforesaid purchases, which therefore defeats the purpose of R.A. No. 9994.

Although RA 9994 provides that the Senior citizens may file complaints or charges against the restaurant and other establishments before the Department of Justice or the provincial, city or municipal trial courts, through the assistance/help of the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), however, no complaint whatsoever has been filed for several reasons, one of which is due to lack of information of the general public;

It is in this regard that a TASK FORCE, under the administrative supervision and control of the respective CITY and MUNICIPAL MAYOR of each city and municipality, is indispensable and necessary to monitor, investigate, and keep an eye on all business establishments, to fully implement the law. The TASK FORCE shall likewise file complaints, in behalf of the Senior Citizens, on those business establishments who refuse to honor the 20% discount.

In view of the Christmas season when many of our elderly would necessarily need the 20% discount, it is urgent that a TASK FORCE be created in each city and municipality to give full force and legal effect to RA 9994.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

DAVID L. KHO

Fifteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2930

Introduced by Rep. Godofredo V. Arquiza and Rep. David L. Kho

AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE
IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY
TO SUPPORT AND REINFORCE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “An Act Creating a Task Force in every City and Municipality to Support and Reinforce Republic Act No. 9994.”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – Section 10 of the Declaration of Principles and State Policies of the 1987 Constitution provides: “The State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development.” Further, Article XIII, Section 11 provides: “The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. Priority shall be given to the **underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children.**” Consonant with these constitutional principles the following are the declared policies of this Act:

(a) To recognize the rights of the senior citizens in using their Senior Citizen Cards and avail of the 20% discount under R.A. 9994;

(b) To create a TASK FORCE in every city and municipality to monitor, investigate, and file complaints, in behalf of the Senior Citizens, on those business establishments who refuse to honor the 20% discount or who violate the provisions of R.A. 9994; and

(c) To recognize the vital role of the Local Government in the welfare of poor senior citizens and to actively seek their partnership;

In accordance with these policies, this Act aims to:

(1) create a TASK FORCE in every city and municipality which will adopt measures to monitor and investigate all business establishments who refuse to honor the 20% discount allowed by law to Senior Citizens and as such other violation of the provisions of R.A. 9994;

(2) file complaints, in behalf of the Senior Citizens, with the Department of Justice and the Metropolitan Trial Courts against the erring business establishments;

(3) adopt stricter measures to fully implement R.A. 9994.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

(a) "Senior citizen" or "elderly" shall mean any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old or older as defined in Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the *"Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010."*

(b) "Task Force" shall mean a group of persons, appointed by the City/Municipal Mayor, which will strictly monitor, investigate and file complaints against business establishments who refuse to honor the 20% discount allowed by law to Senior Citizens and other violation under R.A. 9994; and

(c) "Local Government unit " shall mean - as defined in the Local Government Code, as amended;

Section 4. *TASK FORCE.* – There shall be a group of persons, appointed by the City/Municipal Mayor, which will strictly monitor, investigate business establishments who refuse to honor the 20% discount allowed by law to Senior Citizens and who violates the provisions of R.A. 9994;

Section 5. Qualifications. – To become a member of the Task Force, he/she must be:

- a) a Filipino citizen, 18 years old and above;
- b) with no derogatory criminal or administrative record; and
- c) a person of proven integrity and honesty;

Section 6. Government Assistance. – The Government shall provide the following:

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), shall institute a program in pursuance of the objectives of this Act.

The Local Government Units shall have the following functions:

- (a) To plan, implement and monitor yearly programs in pursuance of the objectives of this Act;
- (b) To maintain and regularly update, on a quarterly basis, the business establishments who have violated RA 9994 and make a report on the steps taken by the TASK FORCE against them;
- (c) To serve as a General Information and Liaison Center to fully implement RA 9994; and
- (d) To assist the Senior citizens in filing complaints or charges against erring business establishments who refuse to comply with RA 9994 before the Department of Justice or the city or municipal trial court.

Section 7. Municipal/ City Responsibility. – It shall be the responsibility of the Municipal/City, through the Mayor to prominently display posters, stickers, and other notices that will generate public awareness of the rights and privileges of the senior citizens, to ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented to its fullest.

Section. 8. *Partnership of the National and Local Government Units.* – The national government and local government units shall undertake to ensure the implementation of this Act in their respective territorial jurisdictions.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act in consultation and coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government.

Section. 10. *Appropriation.* – The necessary appropriation for the operation of this Act shall be appropriated and approved by the local government units concerned. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act upon its effectivity shall be charged out of the funds of the Office of the President. Thereafter, any such sum as shall be needed for the regular implementation of this Act shall be included in subsequent General Appropriations Act following its enactment into law.

Section 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

DAVID L. KHO