

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5285



Introduced by **Honorable Carmelo F. Lazatin**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The government recognizes senior citizens as integral part of society. During their prime, they contributed, in one way or another, to make the country a much better place for the younger generation to enjoy.

As proof of the State's appreciation of their hardwork, Republic Act 7432 or the Senior Citizens Act of 2003 was passed by Congress, ensuring that senior citizens are assisted and appreciated by the community as a whole.

On 2009, Congress amended RA 7432 with RA 9994 to further advance the welfare of senior citizens and, at the same time, maximize their contribution to nation-building.

One amendment was the granting of free medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees such as, but not limited to x-rays, computerized tomography scans and blood tests in all government facilities, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DOH in coordination with the PhilHealth.

However, majority of our senior citizens needs regular annual physical examination that most of them cannot afford due to the fact that they are retired employees or indigents.

As way of looking after our elderly, this bill seeks to amend the aforementioned provision and include free and mandatory annual physical examination for all senior citizens, including vital laboratory examinations.

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


CARMELO F. LAZATIN
First District, Pampanga

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FREE ANNUAL PHYSICAL AND OTHER
LABORATORY EXAMINATIONS TO SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING
SECTION 4(E) OF REPUBLIC ACT 7432, AS AMENDED**

BE it enacted in the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled:

Sec. 1. Declaration of Policy: Under Article 13, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

In addition, Section 4, Article 15 of the Constitution provides that the family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.

Seeing the need to further advance the welfare of senior citizens through the expansion of medical benefits provided to them, Section 4 (e) of Republic Act 7432 as amended 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) xxx xxx

"(e) free medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees such as, but not limited to, ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND NECESSARY LABORATORY TESTS RELATED TO IT, x-rays, computerized tomography scans, CARDIAC STRESS TESTS, ENDOSCOPY, ULTRASOUND ON KIDNEYS, URETER AND BLADDER, PULMONARY FUNCTION TESTS and blood tests, INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL FEE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIANS, in all government facilities, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DOH in coordination with the PhilHealth;

Sec. 2. Appropriation--Section 11 of RA 7432 shall be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11. Appropriations. - The necessary appropriations for the operation and maintenance of the OSCA shall be appropriated and approved by the LGUs concerned. For national government agencies, the requirements to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in their respective budgets: Provided, That the funds to be used for the national health program INCLUDING THE ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND NECESSARY LABORATORY TESTS RELATED TO IT, CARDIAC STRESS TESTS, ENDOSCOPY, ULTRASOUND ON KIDNEYS, URETER AND BLADDER, PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST and for the vaccination of senior citizens in the first year of the DOH and thereafter, as a line item under the under the DOH budget in the subsequent General Appropriations Act (GAA): Provided, further, That the monthly social pension for indigent senior citizens in the first year of implementation shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD budget in the subsequent GAA.

Sec. 3. Effectivity -- This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,