

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 6682



Introduced by Senior Citizens Partylist Representative
HON. GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is an established fact that the need of a person for health care increases as one reaches the twilight years of life. It is unfortunate that at such stage, one is already hardly employable for a means of livelihood to answer for these expensive health services. Such is the predicament of many of our senior citizens. According to the National Statistics Office, our senior citizens number around 5.8 million or about 6.5% of our population in 2011.

The privileges our senior citizens currently enjoy under existing laws are hardly sufficient to respond to their needs, particularly with respect to their medical and health needs. While they have given so much during the prime of their lives as productive members of society, they are now left to provide for themselves. For the government to provide them free medication and hospitalization benefits through its instrumentalities is just a fitting appreciation of their contributions.

This measure proposes to provide free hospitalization and medicines needed by indigent senior citizens times in of ailment to ensure that they attain a more meaningful and productive life.

For this reason, the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly urged.


HON. GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA
Senior Citizens Partylist Representative

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AN ACT
MANDATING FREE MEDICATION AND HOSPITALIZATION
TO INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS IN ALL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy - It shall be the policy of the State to promote the right to health of the people, particularly of the elderly members of society who have contributed much to nation-building during the prime of their life but are now unable to provide for themselves. To this end, the State shall establish programs of social security for the care and welfare of indigent senior citizens, such as the provision of free medication and hospitalization in all government hospitals.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms

- a) **Indigent Senior Citizen** - any citizen who is sixty or more years of age who, due to age-related infirmity, disability or ailment, is incapable to earn his livelihood and who has no means to provide for his medication and hospitalization needs;
- b) **Government Hospital** - includes all public hospitals, whether operated by the National Government or any Local Government Unit, irrespective of their levels and classifications as determined by the Department of Health;
- c) **Medication** - the provision to indigent senior citizens of all medicine and similar substances duly approved by the authorities for dispensation and use, required to prevent or cure specific ailments or conditions suffered by them;
- d) **Hospitalization** - the provision to indigent senior citizens of medical treatment and care, including surgeries and other medical procedures required by their ailments or conditions, as well as confinement.

SECTION 3. *Provision of Free Medication and Hospitalization* - All government hospitals are hereby mandated to provide free medication and hospitalization to all indigent senior citizens.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The Department of Health shall formulate and promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, issuances, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6 *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Adopted.