

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 100



Introduced by **HONORABLE EDCCEL "GREX" B. LAGMAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The original House Bill No. 834 was approved with Senate amendments as contained in Senate Bill No. 3328. The enrolled bill was vetoed because President Benigno S. Aquino III found excessive and oppressive the Senate amendment of seventy-five percent (75%) discount for the purchase of goods and services by centenarians without the benefit of tax credit or tax refund for participating enterprises.

When the original bill was filed in the 15th Congress, there were 7,000 centenarians, more or less, in the country waiting for the legislated incentives. Many of them have died meanwhile, but the rest who are still alive and those who have joined their ranks would benefit from the immediate approval of the bill.

The enrolled bill is being refiled without the provisions objected to by the President in his veto message.

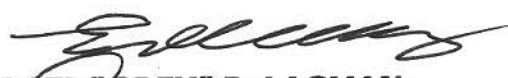
This bill seeks to honor and provide incentives to all Filipino centenarians. As an incentive, every Filipino residing in the Philippines or abroad shall receive on his or her 100th birthday a letter of felicitation from the President of the Philippines for his or her longevity as well as a plaque of recognition from his or her city or municipal government. As a modest pecuniary incentive, he or she will also receive a Centenarian's incentive of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) from the national government and a cash gift from the local government, the latter to be presented in a ceremony during National Respect for Centenarians Day.

A major indicator of the level of a nation's human development is life expectancy at birth. Human development is attainable when the human population lives healthy, and consequently, long lives. Today, given the level of the country's development, the average Filipino can expect to live to only 71 years. Living to be a centenarian, or three decades past the life expectancy, is therefore an achievement and a distinction worthy of emulation and public recognition.

Verily, our centenarians deserve to be honored and respected. As Adler said, "...centenarians are our role models for living long and aging well. They are the role models for the future of aging."

The government can and should provide psychological and pecuniary incentives to its centenarians, sterling citizens who have led exemplary long lives which every Filipino must be inspired by and aspire for.

Accordingly, approval of this measure is urgently and earnestly sought.


EDCEL "GREX" B. LAGMAN

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AN ACT
HONORING AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO
FILIPINO CENTENARIANS, DECLARING THE 25th OF SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL
RESPECT FOR CENTENARIANS DAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "**Centenarians Act of 2013**".

SEC. 2. *Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift.* – Upon reaching his or her one hundredth (100th) birthday, every Filipino residing in the Philippines or abroad shall be honored with:

(a) A letter of felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating the celebrant for his or her longevity; and

(b) A Centenarian's Gift in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00).

SEC. 3. *National Respect for Centenarians Day.* – As part of the annual Family Week celebration from September 19 to 28, the 25th of September is hereby declared as National Respect for Centenarians Day during which all Filipinos who have turned centenarian in the current fiscal year shall be awarded a plaque of recognition and a cash incentive by their respective city or municipal governments in appropriate ceremonies in addition to the recognition and cash gift provided in the preceding paragraph. The amount of the cash incentive shall be determined by the concerned local government unit.

SEC. 4. *Older Surviving and Deceased Centenarians.* – All living centenarians who reached their one hundredth (100th) birthday and above prior to the effectivity of this Act shall be honored on the celebration of the first national Respect for Centenarians Day or one hundred twenty (120) days after the effectivity of this Act, whichever comes earlier, in appropriate ceremonies which shall be observed as national event. They shall each be awarded a plaque of recognition and the Centenarian's Gift referred to in Section 2 hereof. In the same event, posthumous plaques of recognition in honor of deceased centenarians shall be presented to the nearest surviving relative of each centenarian or his/her representative.

SEC. 5. *Release of Centenarian's Gift.* – The National Committee hereunder created in Section 8, shall ensure the release of the Centenarian Gift within thirty (30) days from the centenarian's birthday, after sufficient compliance with establishing when the centenarian was born.

SEC. 6. *Additional Benefits.* – All centenarians will be entitled to the grant of fifty

percent (50%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of goods and services from all establishments, for the exclusive use and enjoyment or availment of the centenarian which amount of discount shall be covered by a tax credit pursuant to the pertinent Senior Citizens Acts.

SEC. 7. **Funding.** – During the initial year of the implementation of this Act, the requisite funds shall be sourced from the unexpended appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the General Appropriations Act of 2013 and subsequently the amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. **Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30) days from its organization, a National Committee composed of the Secretary of the DSWD as Chairperson, the respective Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and the Department of Health, and the Executive Director of the Commission of Filipinos Overseas as members, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations, and shall oversee the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. **Repealing Clause.** – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432 as amended by Republic Act No. 9257 and further amended by Republic Act No. 9994 or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" is hereby amended accordingly. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. **Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation which shall not be later than seven (7) days after the approval thereof.

Approved,