

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1043**



Introduced by REP. MERCEDES C. CAGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The legal benefits accruing to our senior citizens by virtue of the amendatory Senior Citizens Act of 2003 are already ineffective, if not totally worthless. With the ever increasing prices of commodities, basic services and day to day expenditures confronting our lives today, the law is rendered no longer germane to the genuine interests upon which it was made. The apparent benefits or advantages extended by the law are surprisingly dismal under the present circumstances. Contemptible, as in the metaphor, the amount saved from the discounts may just barely be enough to account for a piteous tricycle fare, nothing more.

The role of the elders in nation building has been regarded highest constitutional affirmation, and should not be disregarded by the government. Their participation in our society plays an important role to social development, hence, their welfare and the improvement of their well-being should be one of our utmost concerns.

Mindfulness should be had that they, once upon a time, had been in the core frontlines molding and forming the then allegorically portrayed era called future; which is the period we now call the present. The blessings given by the present day setting would not be as promising and realizing were it not for the efforts made by our elders during their times. Thus, it is just but appropriate to give back what is due them.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of the attached legislation is strongly recommended.


MERCEDES C. CAGAS

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“AN ACT
AMENDING PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT
OF 2003, RELATIVE TO THE PROVISIONS ON THE CONTRIBUTION
TO THE COMMUNITY, AND PRIVILEGES FOR THE SENIOR
CITIZENS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

Section 1. Supplementary Provision. – Section three (3) of the said law is hereby amended, to accommodate an additional ground to read as follows:

“Section 3. Contribution to the Community. – Any qualified senior citizen as determined by the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) may render his/her services to the community which shall consist of, but not limited to, any of the following:

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and by way of incorporation;

(f) Be employed as a Learner in industrial occupations and which may be learned through practical training on the job, whether or not such training is supplemented by theoretical instruction depending on the terms and conditions of the Learnership Agreement if there be any.

The circumstances and qualification of these elders as Learners shall be determined by the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment.

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Section 2. Amendatory Provision. - Section 4 of the said law is hereby amended to read as follows

“SECTION 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. – The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

- (a) **the grant of thirty percent (30%)** discount from all establishment 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 thirty percent (30%)** discount on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, carnivals, and other similar places of culture, leisure and amusement for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens;

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- (f) **the grant of thirty percent (30%)** 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, medical facilities and clinics**, 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 thirty percent (30%)** discount in fare for domestic air and sea travel for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens;
- (h) **the grant of thirty percent (30%)** discount in public railways, skyways and bus

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Section 3. Repealing Clause - All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, presidential proclamations, letters of implementation, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect upon its approval fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved