

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3175



Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "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 underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

The Constitution also states in Article XV, Section 4 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."

Republic Act 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 provides an array of benefits, privileges and assistance to senior citizens such as a twenty-percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of some goods and services; death benefit assistance; educational assistance; free medical and dental services; and exemption from training fees for socioeconomic programs, among others.

It also grants indigent senior citizens additional privileges such as free vaccines, social pension and mandatory Philhealth coverage. Senior citizens, however, who are not considered as indigents but who cannot afford to enroll themselves under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) are deprived of the Philhealth benefits.

In this light, this measure aims to remove the limitation on the mandatory Philhealth coverage for senior citizens. Under this bill, all senior citizens, whether indigent or not, shall be enrolled under Philhealth. The funds necessary to ensure their Philhealth coverage shall be sourced from the National Health Insurance Fund.

This bill will enable all our senior citizens to feel more secure during the remaining years of their lives because of the guarantee that they will have the access to medical and health services when need arises.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.
4th District, Quezon

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL SENIOR
CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS
ACT OF 2010"

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

SECTION 1. Section 5, sub-paragraph h (2) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* - The government shall provide the following:

"xxx

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) xxx

"(2) Mandatory Philhealth Coverage

"All [indigent] senior citizens shall be covered by the national health insurance program of Philhealth. FUNDS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT OF ALL SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE SOURCED FROM THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND OF PHILHEALTH [The LGUs where the indigent senior citizen resides shall allocate the necessary funds to ensure the enrollment of their indigent senior citizens], in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

"(3) xxx.

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,