

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE BILL NO. 3414



Introduced by **Honorable Oscar "Richard" S. Garin, Jr.**
1st District, Iloilo

**"AN ACT GRANTING SOCIAL PENSION TO INDIGENT SENIOR
CITIZENS WHO ARE AT LEAST SEVENTY (70) YEARS OLD
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution declares:

"Section 9. The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

Consonant to the mandate promoting social justice by way of providing adequate social services Congress passed Republic Act No. 7432, otherwise known as the Senior Citizen's Act of 1992. This was subsequently amended by Republic Act No. 9257 which became known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003. In 2010 Congress passed another amendatory law, Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.

Section 5 (h) (1) of Republic Act No. 9994 provides:

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

xxx

(h) Additional Government Assistance

(1) Social Pension - Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos (Php500.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD."

Rule V, Article 20 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9994, dated June 18, 2010 provides:

"ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Section 1. SOCIAL PENSION - Pursuant to the eligibility criteria as may be determined by the DSWD, indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos (Php 500.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens. The grant of social pension shall be subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD within three months after convening the Congress."

Presently, the P500 monthly social pension is available only to those indigent senior citizens who are eighty (80) years old above, thus creating a discriminatory gap between those who derive benefit and those who do not, when, in fact, both appear to be similarly situated: economically indigent and virtually incapable of being productive owing to their advanced age. Thus, where there is no substantial distinction between indigent senior citizens who are 80 years old and above and those who are 70 to 79 years old, why should they not be equally protected by the law which, in the first place, seeks to promote social justice? This bill seeks to eliminate the distinction.

It is earnestly prayed that this measure be given due consideration.


OSCAR "RICHARD" S. GARIN, JR.

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

Section 1. Indigent senior citizens who are at least seventy (70) years old shall be entitled to a monthly pension in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Section 2. Within sixty (60) days from approval of this act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development in coordination with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board created under Republic Act No. 9994 shall issue rules and regulations to insure full implementation of this Act.

Section 3. The funding requirement of this Act shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD budget in the subsequent General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. Repealing Clause – All laws, issuances or any part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,