

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3731



Introduced by REP. ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the monthly stipend of indigent senior citizens from Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to One Thousand Pesos and to lower the age of coverage from seventy seven (77) years old and above to seventy (70) years old and above.

The 1987 Constitution provides under Sec. 9 of the Declaration of Principles and State Policies that, "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." It also provides under Sec. 10 of Article II that, "The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development."

The same Constitution provides under Article XIII, Section 11 that, "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavour 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 endeavour to provide free medical care to paupers."

It further provides under Section 4, Article XV 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."

These principles which are enshrined in our Constitution do not only serve to protect the less privileged and the most vulnerable sectors in our society such as the elderly but also affirm their important role in the community as partners in nation-building.

Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 provides for a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), relative to the social pension for indigent Filipino senior citizens. It cannot be denied that over the years the prices of commodities have increased. By increasing their purchasing power, this bill hopes to alleviate the situations of our indigent elderly.

The age requirement, 77 years old and above, is somewhat unreasonable considering today's average lifespan. Hence, it is proposed that the coverage be lowered so that our elderly will be able to avail of the benefits longer into their twilight years.

Therefore the time is ripe to re-visit the provisions embodied in the existing law and uphold the time-honored principle that those who have less in life should have more in law.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is highly and earnestly sought.



ANTHONY G. DEL ROSARIO

