



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5078**



Introduced by REP. MERCEDES C. CAGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide additional benefits and privileges to all senior citizens.

Section 4, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

"Section 4. The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security."

Senior citizens have contributed to our society during the prime of their lives. They have sacrificed much so that we may now enjoy the fruits of their labor. In any culture, respect for elders is paramount. This value should be reflected in our laws. While we may have granted privileges in the past, it is still woefully inadequate considering the diminishing number of senior citizens and their thinning time left to enjoy such rewards. Hence, this bill seeks to further reward them in their twilight years.

While the amendments may cover a comprehensive set of privileges, it is but a small memento of our appreciation for their sacrifice. Discounts on court fees, vehicle registration fees, real property tax, and PRC renewal fees are just small tokens for their usual expenditures. Provision of free annual physical examination, parking, exemption from color-coding and no-wait rule in establishments are also meant to ensure their enjoyment and physical relaxation. All told, these benefits are very economical ways of rewarding our senior citizens and shows to the world what kind of people the Filipinos are, especially towards their elders.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is highly recommended.

MERCEDES C. CAGAS



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR
CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED, ENTITLED, "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF
SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL
PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph(e), Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. *Privileges for the Senior Citizens.* – The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

(a) "(a) The grant of twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of the following goods and services from all establishments, for the exclusive use and enjoyment or availment of senior citizens:

(1) xxx

xxx

xxx

xxx

(10) ON COURT FEES, LEGAL SERVICES AND
ATTORNEY FEES IN ALL CASES OF WHICH THEY ARE THE
RESPONDENTS OR AGGRIEVED PARTIES, SUBJECT TO

THE GUIDELINES TO BE ISSUED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

(11) ON VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES FOR THOSE OWNED BY SENIOR CITIZENS.

(12) ON REAL PROPERTY TAX.

(13) ON RENEWAL OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY COMMISSION (PRC) LICENSE.

xxx

xxx

xxx

(e) free medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory [fees] TESTS, such as, but not limited to, ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, x-rays, computerized tomography scans, CARDIAC STRESS TEST, ENDOSCOPY, ULTRASOUND ON KIDNEYS, URETER AND BLADDER, PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST and blood tests, INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL FEES OF ATTENDING PHYSICIANS, in all government HEALTH CARE facilities, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DOH in coordination with the PhilHealth.

IN THE AVAILMENT OF THE ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, THE INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL HAVE PREFERENCE OVER NON-INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE ORDER THEY SHALL BE SERVED.

(f) FREE PARKING IN ALL COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THEIR NAMES.

(g) EXEMPTION FROM COLOR-CODING OR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC REDUCTION PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR VEHICLES WHERE SENIOR CITIZENS ARE PASSENGERS.

(h) NO-WAIT-RULE IN ALL ESTABLISHMENTS.

SEC. 2. Section 11 of the same Act, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 11. *Appropriations.* – The necessary appropriations for the operation and maintenance of the OSCA shall be appropriated and approved by the LGUs concerned. For national government agencies, the requirements to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in their respective budgets: *Provided*, That the funds to be used for the national health program, INCLUDING THE ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, and for the vaccination of senior citizens in the first year of implementation shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DOH and thereafter, as a line item under the DOH budget in the subsequent General Appropriations Act (GAA): *Provided, further*, That the monthly social pension for indigent senior citizens in the first year of implementation shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD and thereafter as a line item under the DSWD budget in the subsequent GAA.”

SEC. 3. The relevant government agencies shall draft the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,