

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5960**



Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior citizens comprise nearly seven percent (7%) of the Philippine's population with their number projected at 6.3 million. According to Dr. Romulo A. Virola, former Secretary General of the National Statistics Coordination Board, the share of senior citizens to the country's total population has been steadily increasing over time, from 6.0 percent in 2000 to 6.9 percent in 2011 to 13.8 percent in 2040.

The senior citizens are still considered as one of the poorest sectors in the Philippine society. In fact, a data from the Philippine Statistics Authority shows that this group has a poverty incidence of 13.1% in 2015.

As the population age, our senior citizens become more exposed to various risks and vulnerabilities. Most of the seniors who are working under the informal sectors are not covered by pensions and health care benefits. It remains a fact that this sector of society is having difficulties to keep up with the relatively rapid economic growth where prices of medicines, health care, basic goods and commodities, and house utilities are constantly increasing through time.

It is therefore a declared policy of the State to 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. In the Declaration of Principles and State Policies in Article II, Sections 10 and 11, it is further declared that the State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development and that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

This representation believes that increasing the senior citizen discount from five percent (5%) to ten percent (10%) relative to the monthly utilization of water and electricity supplied to households registered under the name of a senior is indeed essential to reduce the burden of our elderlies.

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


MARK O. GO

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HOUSE BILL NO. **5960**

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**AN ACT INCREASING THE RATE OF DISCOUNT
GRANTED TO SENIOR CITIZENS ON THEIR MONTHLY ELECTRIC AND WATER
CONSUMPTION, 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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Section 1. *Section 4 (c) of Republic Act no. 9994 is hereby amended to read as follows:*

"SEC 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizen. -

XXX

XXX

XXX

(c) The grant of a [minimum of five percent (5%)] **TEN PERCENT (10%)** discount relative to the monthly utilization of water and electricity supplied by the public utilities: *Provided*, That the individual meters for the foregoing utilities are registered in the name of the senior citizen residing therein: *Provided, further*, That the monthly consumption does not exceed one hundred kilowatt hours (100 kWh) of electricity and thirty cubic meters (30 m3) of water: *Provided, furthermore*, That the privilege is granted per household regardless of the number of senior citizens residing therein;

XXX

XXX

XXX"

SEC. 2. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,