

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 7222**

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**Introduced by HON. ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Projections by the Population Commission (POPCOM) based on the 2015 Census of Population from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) places the number of Filipinos senior citizens as of 2018 at 8 million<sup>1</sup>. This sector is one of the most vulnerable due to increased health risks as well as decreased capacity to earn income for their everyday needs.

While pension along with other benefits and privileges are granted to the sector through the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Social Security System (SSS) as well as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 (RA No. 7432 as amended by RA No. 9994), social security provided by the State remain beyond the reach of many senior citizens.

The SSS and the GSIS currently provide pension primarily to senior citizens who were salaried employees from the formal sector. The Social Pension Program under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, as implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, meanwhile, provides pension only to qualified, indigent senior citizens, with the program's system for determining such qualified indigents often being criticized for inefficiency and irregularities. This leaves a significant portion of senior citizens, particularly those from the informal sector, without social pension.

By expanding the coverage of the senior citizen's pension provided under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 to all senior citizens not currently covered by the GSIS or the SSS the bill seeks to ensure that no senior citizen

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<sup>1</sup> Population Commission. 2018. *107 Million Filipinos by End-2018* [Press Release]. Retrieved from <<http://www.popcom.gov.ph/10-press-releases/578-107-million-filipinos-by-end-2018>>

shall be deprived of even the most basic of social security. It likewise mandates the adjustment to present value of the monthly pension once every three years in order to prevent a reduction in the real value of the pension due to inflation.

Furthermore, the bill seeks to provide a P15,000 funeral and burial assistance in recognition of the significant financial burden such services place on senior citizens and their families.

Through the additional government assistance provided by this bill it is hoped that fewer Filipinos are forced to endure hardship in their later years.

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



**ROMERO "MIRO" S. QUIMBO**  
Representative  
Second District, Marikina City

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO SENIOR CITIZENS THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF THE COVERAGE OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S PENSION PROGRAM AND THE GRANT OF FUNERAL AND BURIAL ASSISTANCE, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZEN ACT OF 2010", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 9994, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION. 1.** Section 5, paragraph h of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003", is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. Government Assistance. – The Government shall provide the following:

"(a) xxx

"(h) *Additional Government Assistance*

"(1) Social Pension – [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 subject [a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD]. **PROVIDED, THAT SUCH SENIOR CITIZEN DOES NOT RECEIVE ANY PENSION FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) OR THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS). PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT ONCE EVERY THREE (3) YEARS, THE MONTHLY STIPEND SHALL BE ADJUSTED TO ITS PRESENT VALUE USING THE CONSUMER**

1       **PRICE INDEX, AS PUBLISHED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS**  
2       **AUTHORITY (PSA).**

3  
4       “(2) xxx

5  
6       “(3) xxx

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8       **“(4) FUNERAL AND BURIAL ASSISTANCE - THE BENEFICIARY OR**  
9       **ANY PERSON WHO SHALL SHOULD THE FUNERAL AND BURIAL**  
10       **EXPENSES OF A DECEASED SENIOR CITIZEN, SHALL BE**  
11       **ENTITLED TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P15,000) AS FUNERAL**  
12       **AND BURIAL ASSISTANCE.”**

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15       **SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, executive orders, rules and  
16       regulations or any part hereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or  
17       modified accordingly.

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19       **SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.*** If any part or provision of this Act shall be  
20       declared unconstitutional and invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate  
21       other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

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23       **SECTION 4. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days its complete  
24       publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
25       circulation, whichever comes earlier.

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28       Approved,  
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