

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **8561**



**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL POLICY FOR THE
MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS BY PROVIDING A
COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM OF BENEFITS, GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AND
SUBSIDY AND OTHER PRIVILEGES, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE
THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT,
BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

INTRODUCED BY REP. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enactment of Republic Act No. 7432 into law and its subsequent amendments paved way to the institutionalization of a national policy that seeks to promote the well-being of the elderly members of the society. This law translated the government's commitment to fulfil a constitutional mandate to realize the social development goals benefitting all its citizens, and to establish the dynamic enabling environment to achieve such development. Several years have passed, the benefits, privileges, assistance, subsidies and support services provided to senior citizens seem insufficient and lacking as their concerns and needs are still the primordial concern of the government. The inevitable changes in society and the unsteady economic situation have great impact to the living conditions of older persons. At present, there are about eight (8) million senior citizens in the country and expected to double by 2020.

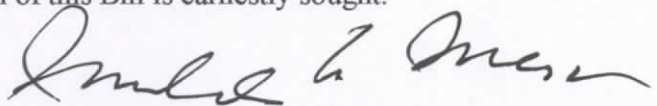
This legislative proposal which seeks to amend existing policies on senior citizens aims to strengthen and enhance their basic and inalienable rights by crafting a more coherent and comprehensive overall framework that promotes their independence, care, participation, self-fulfilment and dignity; safeguards them against the insidious age discrimination that they face in their access to economic and social support services; protects them from the physical and psychological abuse they are subjected to resulting from societal prejudices that prevent them from the enjoyment of rights in their twilight years and advances their social, economic and cultural inclusion into mainstream development processes by harnessing and empowering their productive capacities so that the country will continue to gain from their knowledge and expertise. Also, through this, more efforts shall be exerted to give them equal opportunities

The Bill further envisages that senior citizens will be able to live and participate actively in a society that guarantees their rights, recognises their capabilities and contributions, and facilitates their enjoyment of a life of fulfilment, health and security and enhances the value and worth of senior citizens to the country. All stakeholders, including family, community, private sector, civic organisations, and the Government must work together to respond to the needs of senior citizens.

Moreover, as a signatory to international covenants and agreements such as the United Nations Plan of Action on Ageing, the government is further mandated to implement the seventeen development goals or SDGs which clearly identify our elderly as a vital part of international development. Goal No. 3 which seeks to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" provides a clear framework to governments and other development actors that the welfare of older people must be taken into account.

Therefore, this measure which seeks to expand the privileges and support provided by the State such as financial security, health care, shelter, welfare and other needs of older persons, to afford strong protection against abuse and exploitation, to grant access to opportunities for development of the potential of older persons, to maximize their participation in nation building, to provide services so that they can improve the quality of their lives and to enhance their accessibility by remove socio-cultural, economic and physical barriers so they can continue to contribute more effectively to the development of the family, the community and the society must be considered and approved for the benefit of all senior citizens and the incoming senior citizens in the country.

Premises considered, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



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

1 **Section 1.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior
2 Citizens Act of 2010" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "Section 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "***Comprehensive National Policy for***
4 ***Senior Citizens Act.***"

5 **Sec. 2.** Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994,
6 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003" is hereby reinstated to read
7 as follows:

8 "***Sec. 2. Declaration of Policies and Objectives.*** – As provided in the Constitution of the
9 Republic of the Philippines, it is the declared policy of the State to promote a just and
10 dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free
11 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full
12 employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life. In the Declaration of
13 Principles and State Policies in Article II, Sections 10 and 11, it is further declared that the
14 State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development and that the State
15 values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

16 "Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution provides that the State shall adopt an integrated
17 and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential
18 goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There
19 shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and
20 children. Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution Further declares that it is the duty of the
21 family to take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social
22 security for them.

23 "Consistent with these constitutional principles, this Act shall serve the following objectives:

1 “(a) To recognize the rights of senior citizens to take their proper place in society and make it
2 a concern of the family, community, and government;

3 “(b) To give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their
4 full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of Philippine
5 society;

6 “(c) To motivate and encourage the senior citizens to contribute to nation building;

7 “(d) To encourage their families and the communities they live with to reaffirm the valued
8 Filipino tradition of caring for the senior citizens;

9 “(e) To provide a comprehensive health care and rehabilitation system for disabled senior
10 citizens to foster their capacity to attain a more meaningful and productive ageing; and

11 “(f) To recognize the important role of the private sector in the improvement of the welfare of
12 senior citizens and to actively seek their partnership.

13 “In accordance with these objectives, this Act shall:

14 “(1) establish mechanisms whereby the contributions of the senior citizens are maximized;

15 “(2) adopt measures whereby our senior citizens are assisted and appreciated by the
16 community as a whole;

17 “(3) establish a program beneficial to the senior citizens, their families and the rest of the
18 community they serve: and

19 “(4) establish community-based health and rehabilitation programs for senior citizens in
20 every political unit of society.”

21 **Sec. 3.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994,
22 otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003", is hereby further amended to
23 read as follows:

24 "Sec. 3. *Definition of terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

25 “(a) *Senior citizen* or *elderly* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least [sixty
26 (60)] **FIFTY SIX (56)** years old;

27 “(b) *Geriatrics* refer to the branch of medical science devoted to the study of the biological
28 and physical changes and the diseases of old age;

29 “(c) *Lodging establishment* refers to a building, edifice, structure, apartment or house
30 including tourist inn, apartelle, motorist hotel, and pension house engaged in catering, leasing
31 or providing facilities to transients, tourists or travelers;

32 “(d) *Medical Services* refer to hospital services, professional services of physicians and other
33 health care professionals and diagnostics and laboratory tests that the necessary for the
34 diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury;

35 “(e) *Dental services* to oral examination, cleaning, permanent and temporary filling,
36 extractions and gum treatments, restoration, replacement or repositioning of teeth, or

1 alteration of the alveolar or periodontium process of the maxilla and the mandible that are
2 necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury;

3 “(f) *Nearest surviving relative* refers to the legal spouse who survives the deceased senior
4 citizen: Provided, That where no spouse survives the decedent, this shall be limited to
5 relatives in the following order of degree of kinship: children, parents, siblings, grandparents,
6 grandchildren, uncles and aunts;

7 “(g) *Home health care service* refers to health or supportive care provided to the senior
8 citizen patient at home by licensed health care professionals to include, but not limited to,
9 physicians, nurses, midwives, physical therapist and caregivers; and

10 “(h) *Indigent senior citizen*, refers to any elderly who is [frail, sickly or with disability, and]
11 without pension, [or] permanent source of income, OR compensation [or financial assistance
12 from his/her relatives] to support [his/her] THE SENIOR CITIZEN’S basic needs, as
13 determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation
14 with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board.”

15 “(I) GRANDPARENTS-AS-PARENTS REFER TO SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE
16 SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REARING, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND
17 FOSTER CARE OF THEIR MINOR GRANDCHILDREN.”

18 “(J) NUTRITIONAL FOOD AND DRINKS REFER TO ANY FOOD OR BEVERAGE
19 PRODUCT APPROVED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION WHICH
20 CONTAINS MICRONUTRIENTS AND WERE FORMULATED TO MEET THE
21 DIET OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO SUFFER FROM POOR
22 DIGESTION, MALNUTRITION, OBESITY, RENAL PROBLEMS AND ILLNESSES
23 LIKE DIABETES, HYPERTENSION, CANCER AND OTHER SIMILAR CASES.”

24
25 “(K) FOOD SUPPLEMENTS ARE CONCENTRATED SOURCES OF NUTRIENTS
26 WHICH ARE TAKEN AS A DIETARY TOP-UP SUCH AS FISH OIL AND A
27 WHOLE LIST OF VITAMINS AND CONTAIN HIGHER AMOUNTS OF
28 NUTRIENTS THAN ARE FOUND IN MOST FOODS.”

29 **Sec. 4.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994,
30 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" is hereby amended to read
31 as follows:

32 " Sec. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. –

33 The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

34 “(a) the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount FOR THOSE WHO ARE FIFTY SIX (56)
35 YEARS OLD BUT NOT MORE THAN 70 YEARS OLD; THIRTY PERCENT (30%)
36 DISCOUNT FOR THOSE ARE 70 YEARS OLD BUT NOT MORE THAN 80 YEARS
37 OLD; FORTY PERCENT (40%) DISCOUNT FOR THOSE WHO ARE 80 YEARS
38 OLD BUT NOT MORE THAN 90 YEARS OLD; AND FIFTY PERCENT (50%)
39 DISCOUNT FOR THOSE ARE 90 YEARS OLD OR OVER; and exemption from the
40 value-added tax (vat) if applicable, on the sale of the following goods and services from all
41 establishments PURCHASED OR AVAILED OVER THE COUNTER OR THROUGH
42 ONLINE TRANSACTION, for the exclusive use and enjoyment or availment of the senior
43 citizen:

1 “(1) on the purchase of medicines, including the purchase of influenza and pneumococcal
2 vaccines, and such other essential medical supplies, accessories and equipment to be
3 determined by the Department of Health (DOH).

4 “The DOH shall establish guidelines and mechanism of compulsory rebates in the sharing of
5 burden of discounts among retailers, manufacturers and distributors, taking into consideration
6 their respective margins;

7 “(2) on the professional fees of attending physician/s in all private hospitals, medical
8 facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services;

9 “(3) on the professional fees of licensed professional health providing home health care
10 services as endorsed by private hospitals or employed through home health care employment
11 agencies;

12 “(4) on medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees in all private hospitals,
13 medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and home health care services, in accordance with the
14 rules and regulations to be issued by the DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Health
15 Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);

16 ~~“(5) in actual fare for land transportation travel in public utility buses (PUBs), public utility~~
17 ~~jeepneys (PUJs), taxis, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs), shuttle services and public railways,~~
18 ~~including Light Rail Transit (LRT), Mass Rail Transit (MRT), and Philippine National~~
19 ~~Railways (PNR);~~

20 ~~“(6) in actual transportation fare for domestic air transport services and sea shipping vessels~~
21 ~~and the like, based on the actual fare and advanced booking;]~~

22 “[~~(7)~~] (5) on the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishments,
23 restaurants and recreation centers;

24 “[~~(8)~~ on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses,
25 leisure and amusement; and]

26 “[~~(9)~~] (6) on funeral and burial services for the death of senior citizens;

27 **(7) ON VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES FOR THOSE OWNED BY SENIOR**
28 **CITIZENS;**

29 **(8) ON RENEWAL OF PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY COMMISSION (PRC)**
30 **LICENSE;**

31 **(9) ON BANK TRANSACTION FEES**

32 **(10) ON CLOTHES, FOOTWEAR AND OTHER CLOTHING APPARELS FOR THE**
33 **USE ONLY OF SENIOR CITIZENS;**

34 **(11) ON THE PURCHASE OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES SUCH AS VISUAL AIDS,**
35 **HEARING AIDS, WHEELCHAIRS, CRUTCHES AND OTHER PRODUCTS AND**
36 **SERVICES THAT SUPPORT THE MOBILITY AND PHYSICAL ACUTITIES OF**
37 **SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH HAVE DECLINED DUE TO AGEING; AND**

38 **(12) ON THE PURCHASE OF FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)-**
39 **APPROVED FOOD SUPPLEMENT, NUTRITIONAL FOOD AND DRINK;**

1 “(b) exemption from the payment of individual income taxes of senior citizens who are
2 considered to be minimum wage earners in accordance with Republic Act No. 9504;

3 “(c) the grant of a [minimum of] MONTHLY [five percent (5%)] TEN PERCENT (10%)
4 discount [relative to the monthly utilization of water and electricity] TO THE FIRST ONE
5 HUNDRED KILOWATT HOURS (100 KWH) OF ELECTRICITY AND THE FIRST
6 THIRTY CUBIC METERS (30 M3) supplied by the public utilities, AND EXEMPTION
7 FROM VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT): *Provided*, That the individual meters for the
8 foregoing utilities are registered in the name of the senior citizen residing therein: [*Provided*,
9 *further*, That the monthly consumption does not exceed one hundred kilowatt hours (100
10 kWh) of electricity and thirty cubic meters (30 m3) of water:] *Provided*, [*furthermore*]
11 FURTHER, That the privilege is granted per household regardless of the number of senior
12 citizens residing therein;

13 “(d) exemption from training fees for socioeconomic programs;

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

21 IN THE AVAILMENT OF THE ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, THE
22 INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE PRIORITIZED OVER NON-INDIGENT
23 SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE ORDER THEY SHALL BE SERVED;

24 “(f) the DOH shall administer free vaccination against the influenza virus and pneumococcal
25 disease for indigent senior citizen patients;

26 “(g) educational assistance to senior citizens to pursue post secondary, tertiary, post tertiary,
27 vocational and technical education, as well as short-term courses for retooling in both public
28 and private schools through provision of scholarships, grants, financial aids, subsidies and
29 other incentives to qualified senior citizens, including support for books, learning materials,
30 and uniform allowances, to the extent feasible: *Provided*, That senior citizens shall meet
31 minimum admission requirements;

32 “(h) to the extent practicable and feasible, the continuance of the same benefits and privileges
33 given by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), the Social Security System
34 (SSS) and the PAG-IBIG, as the case may be, as are enjoyed by those in actual service;

35 “(i) retirement benefits of retirees from both the government and the private sector shall be
36 regularly reviewed to ensure their continuing responsiveness and sustainability, and to the
37 extent practicable and feasible, shall be upgraded to be at par with the current scale enjoyed
38 by those in actual service;

39 “(j) to the extent possible, the government may grant special discounts in special programs
40 for senior citizens on purchase of basic commodities, subject to the guidelines to be issued for
41 the purpose by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of
42 Agriculture (DA);

43 “(k) provision of express lanes for senior citizens in all commercial and government
44 establishments; in the absence thereof, priority shall be given to them; [and]

1 “(l) death benefit assistance of a minimum of Two thousand pesos (Php2, 000.00) shall be
2 given to the nearest surviving relative of a deceased senior citizen which amount shall be
3 subject to adjustments due to inflation in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the
4 DSWD, IN ADDITION TO A FUNERAL AND BURIAL ASSISTANCE OF FIFTEEN
5 THOUSAND PESOS (P15,000.00) TO BE GIVEN TO ANY PERSON WHO
6 SHOULDER THE EXPENSES INCURRED;

7 “(M) ADDITIONAL GRANT OF A MINIMUM OF FIVE PERCENT (5%)
8 DISCOUNT AND EXEMPTION FROM THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT), IF
9 APPLICABLE, FOR GRANDPARENT-AS-PARENT ON THE SALE OF GOODS
10 AND SERVICES FROM ALL ESTABLISHMENTS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT
11 ALTHOUGH NOT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE AND BENEFIT OF THE SENIOR
12 CITIZEN, PROVIDED, THAT THE GRANDPARENT-AS-PARENT REGISTERS AS
13 SUCH WITH THE OSCA; PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT IN SCHOOLS WHERE
14 THE GRANDCHILDREN OF THE GRANDPARENT-AS-PARENT ARE
15 ENROLLED MUST BE INFORMED THAT SUCH STUDENT IS UNDER THE SOLE
16 CARE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN;

17 (N) EXEMPTION FROM PASSPORT PROCESSING FEES, AS WELL AS TRAVEL
18 TAXES, TERMINAL FEES, OTHER FEES AND CHARGES LEVIED IN
19 AIRPORTS, PORTS, OR OTHER TERMINALS BY THE GOVERNMENT, ANY OF
20 ITS AGENCIES OR INSTRUMENTALITIES, OR BY GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR
21 CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS;

22 (O) FREE PARKING IN ALL COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND
23 FACILITIES CHARGING PARKING FEES FOR VEHICLES REGISTERED
24 UNDER THE NAME OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN;

25
26 (P) EXEMPTION FROM THE UNIFIED VEHICULAR VOLUME REDUCTION
27 PROGRAM (UVVRP), COMMONLY CALLED NUMBER OR COLOR-CODING
28 FOR PRIVATE VEHICLES BOARDED BY SENIOR CITIZENS, IRRESPECTIVE
29 OF OWNERSHIP AND VEHICLES REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF A
30 SENIOR CITIZEN, REGARDLESS WHETHER THE OWNER SENIOR CITIZEN IS
31 A PASSENGER OR NOT. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE DEPARTMENT OF
32 TRANSPORTATION SHALL IMPLEMENT MECHANISMS IN THE ISSUANCE OF
33 STICKERS AND/OR SPECIAL PLATES;

34
35 (Q) FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES, INCLUDING COURT,
36 ACCEPTANCE AND APPEARANCE FEES, IN ALL CRIMINAL, QUASI-JUDICIAL
37 OR ADMINISTRATIVE CASES FILED AGAINST SENIOR CITIZENS EXCEPT
38 NECESSARY AND ACTUAL EXPENSES INCURRED, SUCH AS, BUT NOT
39 LIMITED TO, PHOTOCOPYING AND COURIER SERVICES, AND
40 CONTINGENCY FEES NOT EXCEEDING TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF THE
41 AMOUNT AWARDED AND ACTUALLY RECOVERED IN SAID CASE, EXCEPT
42 THE FOLLOWING CONTROVERSIES OR CASES:

43
44 1) ANY INFORMATION FILED AGAINST A SENIOR CITIZEN FOR
45 COMMISSION OF CRIMES INVOLVING MORAL TURPITUDE;

46
47 2) ANY VIOLATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, OTHERWISE KNOWN
48 AS THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT, AND OTHER
49 CASES COGNIZABLE BY, PENDING BEFORE OR ORIGINATING FROM
50 THE SANDIGANBAYAN;

1 3) INTRA-CORPORATE DISPUTES; AND

2 4) ANY CASE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAMILY CODE,
3 EXCEPT IN CASES OF GUARDIANSHIP

4 (R) THE GRANT OF FIFTY PERCENT (50%) DISCOUNT AND EXEMPTION
5 FROM VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT) ON ACTUAL TRANSPORTATION FARE FOR
6 DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AND
7 SHIPPING VESSELS AND THE LIKE, BASED ON THE ACTUAL FARE AND
8 ADVANCED BOOKING AND ON ACTUAL FARE FOR LAND
9 TRANSPORTATION TRAVEL IN PUBLIC UTILITY BUSES (PUBS), PUBLIC
10 UTILITY JEEPNEYS (PUJS), TAXIS, ASIAN UTILITY VEHICLES (AUVS),
11 SHUTTLE SERVICES AND PUBLIC RAILWAYS, INCLUDING LIGHT RAIL
12 TRANSIT (LRT), MASS RAIL TRANSIT (MRT), AND PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
13 RAILWAYS (PNR);

14 (S) EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF DRIVER'S LICENSE FEES

15 (T) FREE ADMISSION IN THEATERS, CINEMA HOUSES AND CONCERT
16 HALLS, CIRCUSES, LEISURE AND AMUSEMENT; AND

17 (U) EXEMPTION FROM THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX AND ANY
18 TAX ON REAL PROPERTY OWNED AND REGISTERED UNDER THE NAME OF
19 THE SENIOR CITIZEN AND HAS OCCUPIED THE SAID PROPOERTY,
20 WHETHER CONTINUOUS OR BROKEN FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN
21 TEN (10) YEARS PRIOR TO THE ATTAINMENT OF AGE OF SENIORITY.

22 "In the availment of the privileges mentioned above, the senior citizen, or his/her duly
23 authorized representative, may submit as proof of his/her entitled thereto any of the
24 following:

25 "(1) an identification card issued by the Office of the Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA) of the
26 place where the senior citizen resides: Provided, That the identification card issued by the
27 particular OSCA shall be honored nationwide;

28 "(2) the passport of the senior citizen concerned; and

29 "(3) other documents that establish that the senior citizen is a citizen of the Republic and is at
30 least [sixty (60)] FIFTY SIX (56) years of age as further provided in the implementing rules
31 and regulations.

32 "NOT WITH STANDING THE GUIDELINES, POLICIES, RULES AND
33 REGULATIONS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR
34 INSTRUMENTALITIES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT, ALL
35 PERSONS, ENTITIES, FIRMS, ESTABLISHMENTS, COMPANIES, OFFICES, AND
36 FACILITIES COVERED BY THIS ACT AND ITS RULES AND REGULATIONS
37 SHALL, ASIDE FROM THE SENIOR CITIZENS CARDS ISSUED BY THE OFFICE
38 OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS AFFAIRS (OSCA), HONOR ANY GOVERNMENT-
39 ISSUED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS INDICATING A SENIOR CITIZEN OR
40 ELDERLY'S BIRTHDATE OR AGE SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO HIS OR
41 HER PASSPORT, DRIVER'S LICENSE, VOTERS ID, SS/GSIS ID, PRC CARD, OR
42 POSTAL ID, TO ESTABLISH THE ENTITLEMENT OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN TO
43 THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT AND ITS
44 IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. IT IS FURTHER PROVIDED

1 THAT THE OSCA ID AND SUCH GOVERNMENT-ISSUED IDS SHALL BE
2 HONORED NATIONWIDE."

3 "In the purchase of goods and services which are on promotional discount, the senior citizen can avail
4 of the promotional discount or the discount provided herein, whichever is higher. **HOWEVER,**
5 **GOODS AND SERVICES SHALL ONLY BE CONSIDERED AS ON**
6 **PROMOTIONAL DISCOUNT IF THE SALES PROMOTION IS DULY APPROVED**
7 **BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI) AND THE DTI**
8 **APPROVAL CONTROL NUMBER IS CONSPICUOUSLY DISPLAYED AND**
9 **SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE ELDERLY WHEN**
10 **DEMANDED. OTHERWISE, IF THE SALE PROMOTION IS A PERSONAL**
11 **UNDERTAKING BY THE FIRM OR ESTABLISHMENT WITHOUT PRIOR**
12 **APPROVAL BY THE DTI, WHATEVER SELLING PRICE IT OFFERS TO THE**
13 **PUBLIC FOR SUCH ITEM, GOODS OR SERVICES SHALL BE THE BASIS OF**
14 **THE DISCOUNT TO WHICH THE SENIOR CITIZEN SHALL BE ENTITLED,**
15 **INCLUDING THE VAT EXEMPTION WHEN APPLICABLE. "**

16 **IN CASE THE AVAILMENT OF THE SERVICES IS DONE THROUGH ONLINE**
17 **TRANSACTIONS, THE DISCOUNTS SHALL BE APPLIED AUTOMATICALLY.**
18 **FOR THIS PURPOSE, ALL ESTABLISHMENTS SHALL ESTABLISH A**
19 **MECHANISM THAT WILL APPLY THE SAME DISCOUNTS IF SUCH PRODUCT**
20 **OR SERVICE WAS PURCHASED OVER-THE-COUNTER, SUBJECT TO THE**
21 **CONDITIONS STIPULATED UNDER THIS ACT.**

22 "The establishment may claim the discounts granted under subsections (a) and (c) of this
23 section as tax deduction based on the cost of the goods sold or services rendered: Provided,
24 That the cost of the discount shall be allowed as deduction from gross income for the same
25 taxable year that the discount is granted: Provided, further, That the total amount of the
26 claimed tax deduction net of VAT, if applicable, shall be included in their gross sales receipts
27 for tax purposes and shall be subject to proper documentation and to the provisions of the
28 National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended."

29 **A NEW SECTION DESIGNATED AS SEC. 4-A IS HEREBY ADDED TO READ AS**
30 **FOLLOWS:**

31
32 **SEC. 4-A. PRIVILEGES FOR ELDERLY RESIDENT ALIENS. - THE PRIVILEGES**
33 **GRANTED TO SENIOR CITIZENS UNDER THIS ACT AND THE CONDITIONS**
34 **THERE TO SHALL APPLY TO ELDERLY RESIDENT ALIENS, HEREBY**
35 **DEFINED AS FOREIGN NATIONALS RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES WHO**
36 **ARE AT LEAST SIXTY (60) YEARS OF AGE.**

37
38 **IN AVAILING OF THESE PRIVILEGES, THE ELDERLY RESIDENT ALIEN, OR**
39 **HIS/HER DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, MAY SUBMIT AS PROOF**
40 **OF ENTITLEMENT THERETO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

41
42 **(1) AN IDENTIFICATION CARD ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF SENIOR**
43 **CITIZEN AFFAIRS (OSCA) OF THE PLACE WHERE THE ELDERLY**
44 **RESIDENT ALIEN RESIDES: PROVIDED THAT THE IDENTIFICATION**
45 **CARD ISSUED BY THE PARTICULAR OSCA SHALL BE HONORED**
46 **NATIONWIDE;**

47
48 **(2) PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT AUTHORITY IDENTIFICATION CARD;**
49 **AND**
50

1 (3) ALIEN CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION I-CARD; AND (4) OTHER
2 DOCUMENTS THAT ESTABLISH THAT THE ELDERLY RESIDENT
3 ALIEN IS AT LEAST SIXTY (60) YEARS OF AGE AND A RESIDENT OF
4 THE PHILIPPINES, AS FURTHER PROVIDED IN THE IMPLEMENTING
5 RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THIS ACT.

6 TAX DEDUCTION SHALL BE ALLOWED TO ESTABLISHMENTS SUBJECT TO
7 THE CONDITIONS PROVIDED UNDER THIS ACT.

8 Sec. 5. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994,
9 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003" is hereby amended to read
10 as follows:

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

12 "(a) Employment

13 "Senior citizens who have the capacity and desire to work, or be re-employed, shall be
14 provided information and matching services to enable them to be productive members of
15 society. Terms of employment shall conform with the provisions of the Labor Code, as
16 amended, and other laws, rules and regulations.

17 TO ENSURE ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, TRAININGS, SKILLS
18 DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT SERVICES SHALL BE MADE
19 AVAILABLE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. A TASK FORCE HEADED BY THE
20 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) AND THE CIVIL
21 SERVICE COMMISSION (CSC) SHALL BE CREATED TO REDESIGN JOBS AND
22 HUMAN RESOURCE SYSTEMS SUITABLE TO SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE
23 CREATED. FURTHERMORE, DOLE, IN COORDINATION WITH THE
24 TECHNOLOGY AND LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTER (TLRC) AND THE
25 DEPARTMENT AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI) AND OTHER PUBLIC AND
26 PRIVATE AGENCIES, SHALL ASSESS, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT TRAINING
27 PROGRAMS THAT WILL PROVIDE SKILLS GEARED TOWARDS THE
28 IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVELIHOOD OF SENIOR CITIZENS. ALL
29 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHALL BE ENCOURAGED TO INSTITUTE A
30 SENIOR CITIZEN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM THAT WILL PROVIDE
31 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ELDERLY SUCH AS CLERICAL OR
32 SECRETARIAL WORKS, CONSULTANCY, CLEANING OR JANITORIAL
33 SERVICES, EVENT ORGANIZING, TEACHING, KITCHEN HELP, SALES
34 ASSISTANCE, CALL CENTER JOBS, AND SUCH OTHER JOBS OR VOLUNTEER
35 WORKS THAT MAY NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR PHYSICAL WELL-
36 BEING.

37 LIVELIHOOD AND JOB GENERATION PROGRAMS AIMED TOWARDS
38 PROMOTING AND INCREASING SENIOR CITIZENS' PRODUCTIVITY SHALL
39 BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH THE CREATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND
40 LIVELIHOOD CENTERS IN EVERY CITY OR MUNICIPALITY.

41 "Private entities that will employ senior citizens as employees, upon the effectivity of this
42 Act, shall be entitled to an additional deduction from their gross income, equivalent to
43 [fifteen percent (15%)] TWENTY FIVE PERCENT (25%) of the total amount paid as
44 salaries and wages to senior citizens, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE INCOME
45 TAX RETURN WAS FILED UNDER THE ITEMIZED DEDUCTION OR
46 OPTIONAL DEDUCTION SYSTEM AND, subject to the provision of Section 34 of the

1 NIRC, as amended: Provided, however, That such employment shall continue for a period of
2 at least six (6) months: Provided, further, That the annual income of the senior citizen does
3 not exceed the latest poverty threshold as determined by the National Statistical Coordination
4 Board (NSCB) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for that year.

5 “The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in coordination with other government
6 agencies such as, but not limited to, the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC)
7 and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall assess, design and implement training
8 programs that will provide skills and welfare or livelihood support for senior citizens.

9 “(b) Education

10 “The Department of Education (DepED), the Technical Education and Skills Development
11 Authority (TESDA) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in consultation with
12 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and people’s organizations (POs) for senior citizens,
13 shall institute programs that will ensure access to formal and nonformal education.

14 ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, SHALL
15 ALSO BE REQUIRED TO INCORPORATE IN THEIR CURRICULUM AT ALL
16 STAGES OF BOTH FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION MATERIALS
17 THAT WILL STRENGTHEN AND FACILITATE INTERACTIONS WHEREBY
18 THE SENIOR CITIZEN WITH PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND
19 KNOWLEDGE IN SCIENCE, ARTS, ENVIRONMENT, SOCIO-CULTURAL
20 HERITAGE, SPORTS AND OTHER AREAS COULD INTERACT WITH
21 CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS. FURTHERMORE, THEY SHALL INSTITUTE
22 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES THAT WILL ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT
23 THE TRAININGS AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR SENIOR CITIZENS TO
24 BOOST THEIR EMPLOYABILITY.

25 TO INCREASE AND UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS OF AGEING ISSUES,
26 RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL
27 PROGRAMMES RELEVANT AND RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF SENIOR
28 CITIZENS SUCH AS LIFELONG EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR AGEING
29 PREPARATION AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL
30 SHALL BE INSTITUTED TO ALLOW SENIOR CITIZENS TO REMAIN
31 ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN AS MANY SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
32 ACTIVITIES AS POSSIBLE.

33 “(c) Health

34 TO COPE WITH HEALTH ISSUES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED PROBLEMS
35 WHICH MAY BE CHRONIC, MULTIPLE, IMPAIR FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY,
36 REQUIRE CONSTANT ATTENTION AND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT AND
37 CARRY THE RISK OF DISABILITY AND CONSEQUENT LOSS OF AUTONOMY,
38 THE GOVERNMENT SHALL DESIGN CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS THAT
39 ADDRESS AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH SERVICES
40 THAT MEET THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

41 “The DOH, in coordination with local government units (LGUs), NGOs and POs for senior
42 citizens, shall institute a national health program and shall provide an integrated health
43 service for senior citizens. It shall train community-based health workers among senior
44 citizens and health personnel to specialize in the geriatric care and health problems of senior
45 citizens.

1 HEALTH SERVICE PROGRAMS WHICH CONSIST OF PREVENTION,
2 CURATIVE AND REHABILITATIVE ACTIVITIES, HOME AND HOSPICE CARE,
3 MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS REQUIRING
4 CONTINUED MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AFTER DISCHARGE AND THE
5 DEVELOPMENT AND PROVISION OF GERIATRIC TRAINING AT THE FAMILY
6 AND COMMUNITY LEVEL SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN ALL
7 GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, AS WELL AS LOCAL HEALTH
8 FACILITIES.

9 "The national health program for senior citizens shall, among others, be harmonized with the
10 National Prevention of Blindness Program of the DOH. A NATIONAL SENIOR VISION
11 SERVICES PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WITH FUNCTIONAL VISUAL
12 IMPAIRMENTS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
13 SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AS AN EXPANSION OF EXISTING BLIND OR
14 VISUALLY IMPAIRED SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS.

15 "Throughout the country, there shall be established a "senior citizens' ward" in every
16 government hospital. This geriatric ward shall be for the exclusive use of senior citizens who
17 are in need of hospital confinement by reason of their health conditions. However, when
18 urgency of public necessity purposes so require, such geriatric ward may be used for
19 emergency purposes, after which, such "senior citizens' ward" shall be reverted to its nature
20 as geriatric ward.

21 THE GOVERNMENT SHALL FURTHER ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT
22 HOSPITALS OR HOSPITALS FULLY OR PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE
23 GOVERNMENT SHALL RESERVE BEDS FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS,
24 INSTITUTE A SYSTEM THAT WILL NOT SUBJECT SENIOR CITIZENS TO
25 LONG QUEUES, AND ALLOT SEPARATE COUNTERS FOR THEIR MEDICAL
26 TESTS AND TREATMENTS. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR CHRONIC ELDERLY
27 DISEASE AND AGEING SHALL BE EXPANDED AND THE FACILITIES FOR
28 GERIATRIC CARE IN EVERY DISTRICT HOSPITAL SHALL BE EARMARKED.

29 TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF HEALTH
30 SERVICES BY THE ELDERLY DUE TO DISTANCE, ABSENCE OF ESCORT AND
31 UNAVAILABILITY OF MODE OF TRANSPORTATION, THE GOVERNMENT
32 SHALL PROVIDE MOBILE HEALTH SERVICES, SPECIAL CAMPS AND
33 AMBULANCE SERVICES.

34 FOR THE BENEFIT OF THOSE CHRONICALLY ILL AND DEPRIVED OF
35 FAMILY SUPPORT, HOSPICES AND PRIVATE NURSING HOMES SHALL BE
36 SUPPORTED TO ENABLE THEM TO CATER TO CASES OF ABANDONMENT
37 OF CHRONICALLY ILL AGED PATIENTS.

38 IN ENSURING THAT THE NUTRITIONAL NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY ARE
39 PROPERLY GIVEN, EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL ON THE PROPER FOODS
40 SUITABLE FOR THEM SUCH AS RECIPES SUITING TASTES OF DIFFERENT
41 REGIONS WHICH ARE NUTRITIOUS, TASTY, FIT INTO THE DIETARY
42 PATTERN OF THE FAMILY AND THE COMMUNITY SHALL BE
43 DISSEMINATED.

44 "(d) Social Services

45 WELFARE SERVICES SHALL BE PROVIDED TO THE MOST VULNERABLE
46 AMONG OLDER PERSONS ON A PRIORITY BASIS. SERVICES PROVIDED BY

1 **NONGOVERNMENTAL AND VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS SHALL BE**
2 **PROMOTED AND STRENGTHENED THROUGH GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY OR**
3 **DISCOUNT.**

4 "At least fifty percent (50%) discount shall be granted on the consumption of electricity,
5 water, and telephone by the senior citizens center and residential care/group homes that are
6 government-run or non-stock, non-profit domestic corporation organized and operated
7 primarily for the purpose of promoting the well-being of abandoned, neglected, unattached,
8 or homeless senior citizens, subject to the guidelines formulated by the DSWD.

9 **SERVICES PROVIDED BY SENIOR CITIZENS CENTERS AND RESIDENTIAL**
10 **CARE/GROUP HOMES SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

11 "(1) "self and social enhancement services" which provide senior citizens opportunities for
12 socializing, organizing, creative expression, and self-improvement;

13 "(2) "after care and follow-up services" for citizens who are discharged from the homes or
14 institutions for the aged, especially those who have problems of reintegration with family and
15 community, wherein both the senior citizens and their families are provided with counseling;

16 "(3) "neighborhood support services" wherein the community or family members provide
17 caregiving services to their frail, sick, or bedridden senior citizens; and

18 "(4) "substitute family care" in the form of residential care or group homes for the
19 abandoned, neglected, unattached or homeless senior citizens and those incapable of self-
20 care.

21 **INSTITUTIONAL CARE SHALL BE CONSIDERED THE LAST RESORT WHEN**
22 **CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SUCH THAT STAY IN HOMES FOR THE AGED**
23 **BECOMES ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.**

24 "(e) [Housing] **SHELTER**

25 **GOOD HOUSING AND SOUND SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENTS WHICH ARE**
26 **IMPORTANT TO THE WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY CAN PROMOTE THEIR**
27 **GOOD HEALTH AND LONGEVITY. AS SUCH, THE GOVERNMENT MUST**
28 **INSTITUTE REASONABLE HOUSING AND OTHER SHELTER PROGRAMS**
29 **WHERE THEY CAN RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE, EMOTIONAL**
30 **SUPPORT AND LOW-COST COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES.**

31 "The national government shall include in its national shelter program the special housing
32 needs of senior citizens, such as establishment of housing units for the elderly **AND**
33 **ADOPTING HOUSING SCHEMES OFFERING REASONABLE RATES, EASY**
34 **REPAYMENT INSTALLMENTS, TIME BOUND CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULES**
35 **AND TAX RELIEF.**

36 **FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE INDIGENT, ABANDONED AND WITH NO**
37 **ONE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM, THE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE**
38 **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, SHALL**
39 **ESTABLISH NURSING HOMES AND FACILITIES FOR THEIR RESPITE CARE.**

40 "(f) Access to Public Transport

1 "The [Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC)] DEPARTMENT OF
2 TRANSPORTATION (DOTr) shall develop a program to assist senior citizens to fully gain
3 access to public transport facilities.

4 UNDER THIS PROGRAM, ALL PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES (PUV), PUBLIC
5 UTILITY BUSES (PUB), RAIL TRANSPORT PROVIDERS, AND AIR AND SEA
6 TRANSPORT PROVIDERS, SHALL RESERVE AND DESIGNATE THE BEST
7 POSSIBLE SEATS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AS DETERMINED BY DOTR, IN
8 COORDINATION WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND
9 REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB), THE PHILIPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS
10 (PNR), THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (LRTA), THE MARITIME
11 INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA), THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF
12 THE PHILIPPINES (CAAP), AND THREE (3) REPRESENTATIVES FROM
13 REPUTABLE AND CONCERNED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AS
14 RECOMMENDED BY THE DOTR.

15 THE PRIORITY SEATS SHALL BE CLEARLY LABELLED TO INDICATE THAT
16 PASSENGERS MAY USE THEM BUT MUST VACATE THEM IF THEY ARE
17 NEEDED BY AN ELDERLY PASSENGER. PASSENGERS WHO ARE PREGNANT
18 OR WITH DISABILITIES SHALL BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS PROVISION.

19
20 COMMERCIAL AIR AND SEA TRANSPORT PROVIDERS SHALL ENSURE THAT
21 PRIORITY SEATS ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO ELDERLY PASSENGERS
22 DURING THE RESERVATION OF SEATS. ELDERLY PASSENGERS MAY NOT
23 BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SEATS OR BUMPED OFF WITH AT LEAST ONE
24 (1) WEEK OF PRIOR NOTICE AND WITHOUT VALID REASON.

25 FURTHER, SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE AFFORDED SPECIAL PRIVILEGES
26 ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES AND AMENITIES INCLUDING BUT NOT
27 LIMITED TO THE PRIORITY HANDLING AND ASSISTANCE DURING
28 TICKETING, SECURITY CHECK, CHECK-IN, IMMIGRATION, BOARDING,
29 DISEMBARKATION, LUGGAGE PICK-UP AND CUSTOMS CLEARANCE AND
30 MOBILITY ASSISTANCE.

31 "(g) Incentive for Foster Care

32 "The government shall provide incentives to individuals or nongovernmental institution
33 caring for or establishing homes, residential communities or retirement villages solely for,
34 senior citizens, as follows:

35 "(1) realty tax holiday for the first five (5) years starting from the first year of operation; and

36 "(2) priority in the construction or maintenance of provincial or municipal roads leading to
37 the aforesaid home, residential community or retirement village.

38 "(h) Additional Government Assistance

39 "(1) Social Pension

40 OLDER PERSONS HAVE VERY LIMITED SOCIO-ECONOMIC MEANS TO
41 SUSTAIN THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LIVING. AS SUCH, FINANCIAL SECURITY
42 EVOKES GREAT ANXIETY TO THEM. PENSIONS WHICH WILL PROVIDE
43 SOME LEVEL OF SECURITY SHALL BE GIVEN PRIORITY. THE BASE OF

SOCIAL PENSIONS NEEDS TO BE CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED TO INCREASE ITS PURCHASING POWER.

“[Indigent] ALL senior citizens WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING ANY PENSION FROM PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM SUCH THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM AND SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to [Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)] TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) 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.] TO ADJUSTMENTS ONCE EVERY THREE (3) YEARS USING THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, AS PUBLISHED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA).

HOWEVER, INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO TWICE THE AFOREMENTIONED AMOUNT OR AMOUNT GRANTED TO NON-INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS.

“(2) Mandatory PhilHealth Coverage

“All indigent senior citizens shall be covered by the national health insurance program of PhilHealth. The LGUs where the indigent senior citizens resides shall allocate the necessary funds to ensure the enrollment of their indigent senior citizens in accordance with the pertinent laws and regulations.

“(3) Social Safety Nets

“Social safety assistance intended to cushion the effects of economics shocks, disasters and calamities shall be available for senior citizens. The social safety assistance which shall include, but not limited to, food, medicines, and financial assistance for domicile repair, shall be sourced from the disaster/calamity funds of LGUs where the senior citizens reside, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DSWD.”

INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL RECEIVE ONE (1) SACK EVERY QUARTER AS A FOOD SUBSIDY TO ENABLE THEM TO EXTEND THEIR ALREADY LIMITED FINANCIAL RESOURCE WHICH ARE UTILIZED FOR THEIR OTHER NEEDS SUCH AS MEDICINE.

STOP-GAP MECHANISMS OR URGENT AND IMMEDIATE RESPONSES SHALL BE INSTITUTED TO SHIELD SENIOR CITIZENS FROM VULNERABILITIES ARISING FROM DISASTER, EMERGENCY AND TEMPORARY DISPLACEMENT DUE TO INTERVENING FACTORS THAT PREVENT THEM TO LIVE COMFORTABLY.

(4) WELFARE FUND

A WELFARE FUND FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE SET UP. FUNDING SUPPORT SHALL BE OBTAINED FROM CONTRIBUTIONS GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, CORPORATE SECTOR, TRUSTS, CHARITIES, INDIVIDUAL DONORS AND OTHERS. SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS WILL BE GIVEN TAX RELIEF.

THE FUND SHALL BE UTILIZED TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS THAT SEEK TO REDUCE POVERTY AND VULNERABILITY TO RISKS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND ENHANCE THEIR SOCIAL STATUS AND RIGHTS BY PROMOTING AND

1 PROTECTING THEM AGAINST HAZARDS AND SUDDEN LOSS OF INCOME,
2 IMPROVING THEIR CAPACITY TO MANAGE RISKS AND PROVIDING FREE
3 TREATMENT AND MEDICINES TO INDIGENT ELDERLY PATIENTS.

4
5 (5) ASSISTANCE TO NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

6
7 NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) THAT PROVIDE
8 AMBULATORY SERVICES, DAY CARE, HEALTH CARE AND SERVICES THAT
9 COMPLEMENT THE EFFORTS OF THE STATE SHALL BE GIVEN ASSISTANCE
10 THROUGH GRANTS-IN-AIDS, VARIOUS CONCESSIONS AND RELIEF. GRANT-
11 IN-AIDS WILL ENCOURAGE NGOS TO RAISE THEIR OWN RESOURCES TO
12 ENABLE THEM TO PROVIDE SERVICES ON A SUSTAINABLE BASIS.

13
14 (6) SOCIAL INSURANCE

15
16 ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH OTHER INNOVATIVE
17 SOCIAL INSURANCE AND PENSION SCHEMES ESPECIALLY DESIGNED FOR
18 FAMILIES CARING FOR SENIOR DEPENDENTS SHALL BE
19 INSTITUTIONALIZED TO GUARANTEE THAT SENIOR CITIZENS ARE
20 ADEQUATELY PROTECTED FROM LOSS OF INCOME AND UNEMPLOYMENT

21
22 (I) PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY

23
24 AS THE ELDERLY BECOME SOFT TARGETS OF CRIMINAL ELEMENTS AND
25 ARE VULNERABLE TO FRAUDULENT DEALINGS AND OF PHYSICAL AND
26 EMOTIONAL ABUSE WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD BY FAMILY MEMBERS WHO
27 MAY FORCE THEM TO PERFORM ACTS AGAINST THEIR WILL OR INIMICAL
28 TO THE CONSTITUTION AND OTHER EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND
29 REGULATIONS, PROTECTIVE SERVICES THROUGH HELPLINE SERVICES,
30 LEGAL AID AND OTHER POLICE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN ON MATTERS
31 SUCH AS PREVENTION OF UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY, HIRING OF DOMESTIC
32 HELP OR CAREGIVERS AND HANDLING OF CASH AND VALUABLES SHALL
33 BE MADE AVAILABLE TO SENIOR CITIZENS.

34
35 THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED A GRIEVANCE DESK IN COURTS TO
36 ENABLE SENIOR CITIZENS TO INITIALLY LODGE COMPLAINTS ON CASES
37 OF COMMUNITY MALTREATMENT, PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND FINANCIAL
38 ABUSE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT.

39 SEC. 6. A NEW SECTION IS ADDED TO BE DESIGNATED AS SEC. 6, TO READ
40 AS FOLLOWS:

41 "SEC. 6. ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION. - WHILE THE
42 STATE ALONE CANNOT PROVIDE ALL SERVICES NEEDED BY OLDER
43 PERSONS, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) ARE
44 RECOGNIZED AS IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS OF THE
45 GOVERNMENT IN PROVIDING SERVICES THAT COMPLEMENT THE STATE'S
46 PROGRAMS FOR THE SENIOR CITIZENS. AS SUCH, VOLUNTARY EFFORTS
47 TO REMEDY INSUFFICIENCY SHALL BE PROMOTED IN ALL LEVELS
48 THROUGH NETWORKING, EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND
49 INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE STATE AND NGOS TO ENSURE BETTER
50 SERVICES. TRUSTS, CHARITIES, RELIGIOUS AND OTHER ENDOWMENTS
51 SHALL BE ENCOURAGED TO EXPAND THE SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY."

1 SEC. 7. A NEW SECTION IS ADDED TO BE DESIGNATED AS SEC. 7, TO READ
2 AS FOLLOWS:

3 "SEC. 7. ROLE OF SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATIONS.- SENIOR CITIZENS
4 SHALL BE ENCOURAGED TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES AND FORM
5 INFORMAL GROUPS OF THEIR OWN TO SATISFY THE NEEDS FOR SOCIAL
6 INTERACTION, RECREATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AND TO PROVIDE
7 SERVICES TO FELLOW SENIOR CITIZENS BY MAKING USE OF THEIR
8 PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE AND CONTACTS. THE
9 GOVERNMENT SHALL SUPPORT INITIATIVES TAKEN BY THEM IN
10 ADVOCACY, MOBILIZATION OF PUBLIC OPINION, GENERATION OF
11 RESOURCES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY WORK. THE DSWD
12 SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN
13 ORGANIZING GROUPS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS."

14 Sec. 8. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994,
15 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 20010" is hereby amended to read
16 as follows:

17 "Sec. 8. *The Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA)*. – There shall be established in all
18 cities and municipalities an OSCA to be headed by a senior citizen who shall be appointed by
19 the mayor for a term of three (3) years without reappointment but without prejudice to an
20 extension if exigency so requires. Said appointee shall be chosen from a list of three (3)
21 nominees as recommended by a general assembly of senior citizens organizations in the city
22 or municipality.

23 NO PERSON SHALL BE NOMINATED TO THE POSITION OF OSCA UNLESS HE
24 IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL
25 GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, A REGISTERED VOTER OF THE CITY OR
26 MUNICIPALITY, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, ABLE TO READ AND
27 WRITE, AND A BONA FIDE MEMBER OF A DULY ACCREDITED SENIOR
28 CITIZENS GROUP FOR AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS ON THE DAY OF HIS
29 NOMINATION.

30 "The head of the OSCA shall be appointed to serve the interest of senior citizens and shall
31 not be removed or replaced except for reasons of death permanent disability or ineffective
32 performance of his duties to the detriment of fellow senior citizens.

33 "The head of the OSCA shall be entitled to receive an honorarium of an amount at least
34 equivalent to Salary Grade 10 to be approved by the LGU concerned.

35 "The head of the OSCA shall be assisted by the City Social Welfare and Development officer
36 or by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer, in coordination with the Social
37 Welfare and Development Office.

38 "The Office of the Mayor shall exercise supervision over the OSCA relative to their plans,
39 activities and programs for senior citizens. The OSCA shall work together and establish
40 linkages with accredited NGOs Pos and the barangays in their respective areas.

41 "The OSCA shall have the following functions:

42 "(a) To plan, implement and monitor yearly work programs in pursuance of the objectives of
43 this Act;

1 “(b) To draw up a list of available and required services which can be provided by the senior
2 citizens;

3 “(c) To maintain and regularly update on a quarterly basis the list of senior citizens and to
4 issue national individual identification cards, free of charge, which shall be valid anywhere in
5 the country;

6 “(d) To serve as a general information and liaison center for senior citizens;

7 “(e) To monitor compliance of the provisions of this Act particularly the grant of special
8 discounts and privileges to senior citizens;

9 “(f) To report to the mayor, any individual, establishments, business entity, institutions or
10 agency found violating any provision of this Act; and

11 “(g) To assist the senior citizens in filing complaints or charges against any individual,
12 establishments, business entity, institution, or agency refusing to comply with the privileges
13 under this Act before the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Provincial Prosecutor’s Office, the
14 regional or the municipal trial court, the municipal trial court in cities, or the municipal
15 circuit trial court.”

16 Sec. 9. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994,
17 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003" is hereby amended to read
18 as follows:

19 " Sec. 9. Penalties. – **THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES SHALL BE PROHIBITED AND**
20 **PENALIZED UNDER THIS ACT:**

21 A. Any person who refuses to honor the senior citizen card issued by this the government or
22 violates any provision of this Act shall suffer the following penalties:

23 “(a) For the first violation, imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than
24 six (6) years and a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) but not
25 exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00);

26 “(b) For any subsequent violation, imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not
27 more than six (6) years and a fine of not less than One Hundred thousand pesos
28 (Php100,000.00) but not exceeding Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00); and

29 “(c) Any person who abuses the privileges granted herein shall be punished with
30 imprisonment of not less than six (6) months and a fine of not less than Fifty thousand
31 pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00).

32 “If the offender is a corporation, partnership, organization or any similar entity, the
33 officials thereof directly involved such as the president, general manager, managing
34 partner, or such other officer charged with the management of the business affairs shall be
35 liable therefor.

36 “If the offender is an alien or a foreigner, he/she shall be deported immediately after
37 service of sentence.

38 “Upon filing of an appropriate complaint, and after due notice and hearing, the proper
39 authorities may also cause the cancellation or revocation of the business permit, permit to

operate, franchise and other similar privileges granted to any person, establishment or business entity that fails to abide by the provisions of this Act."

(B) WHOEVER, HAVING THE CARE AND PROTECTION OF A SENIOR CITIZEN LEAVES SUCH SENIOR CITIZENS IN ANY PLACE WITH THE INTENTION OF WHOLLY ABANDONING SUCH SENIOR CITIZEN, WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN WHO STILL HAS CONTROL OF HIS/HER MENTAL FACULTIES, SHALL BE PUNISHED BY THE SAME PENALTY IMPOSED TO A PUBLIC INSTITUTION SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED UNDER THE LAW TO TAKE CUSTODY OF HIM/HER AND THE PERSON HAVING HIS/HER CARE AND PROTECTION WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FULLY TAKE CARE OF HIM/HER.

(C) ANY PUV OR PUB OPERATOR WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 5(F) OF THIS ACT SHALL UPON CONVICTION, BE IMPRISONED FOR TWO (2) MONTHS TO ONE (1) YEAR OR PAY A FINE OF ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP1,000.00) TO FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 5,000.00, WITHOUT SUCH PREJUDICE TO THE IMPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS SUCH AS SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF THEIR FRANCHISE;

(D) ANY RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATOR WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 5(f) OF THIS ACT SHALL UPON CONVICTION, BE IMPRISONED FOR FIVE (5) MONTHS TO TWO (2) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP30,000.00 TO FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PP 50,000.00); AND

(E) ANY COMMERCIAL AIR OR SEA TRANSPORT PROVIDER WHO FAILS TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 5(F) OF THIS ACT SHALL UPON CONVICTION, BE IMPRISONED FOR FIVE (5) TO TEN (10) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP100,000.00) TO FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP500,000.00)."

Sec. 10. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003" is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 10. Monitoring and Coordinating Mechanism. – A National Coordinating and Monitoring Board shall be established which shall be composed of the following:

“(a) Chairperson – the Secretary of the DSWD or an authorized representative;

“(b) Vice Chairperson – the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) or an authorized representative; and

“(c) Members:

“(1) the Secretary of the DOJ or an authorized representative;

“(2) the Secretary of the DOH or an authorized representative;

“(3) the Secretary of the DTI or an authorized representative; [and]

"(4) CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH JURISDICTION OVER ALL MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS; AND

1 [(4)] (5) representatives from five (5) NGOs for senior citizens which are duly accredited by
2 the DSWD and have service primarily for senior citizens. Representatives of NGOs shall
3 serve a period of three (3) years.

4 "The Board may call on other government agencies, NGOs and Pos to serve as resource
5 persons as the need arises. Resource persons have no right to vote in the National
6 Coordinating and Monitoring Board."

7 **Sec. 11. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of
8 this Act, the Secretary of the DSWD shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing
9 rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No.
10 9994, to carry out the objectives of this Act, in consultation with the Department of Finance,
11 the Department of Tourism, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
12 (HUDCC), the DOLE, the DOJ, the DILG, the DTI, the DOH, the DOTC, the NEDA, the
13 DepED, the TESDA, the CHED, and five (5) NGOs or POs for the senior citizens duly
14 accredited by the DSWD.

15 **Sec. 12. *Appropriations.*** – The appropriations for the operation and maintenance of the
16 OSCA and implementation of programs for senior citizens previously appropriated and
17 approved under the law being amended shall remain in effect. The additional budgetary
18 requirements needed to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in their
19 respective budgets of concerned agencies and thereafter included in the annual General
20 Appropriation Act for the continued implementation of this Act, Provided, That the increased
21 monthly social pension for indigent senior citizens shall be added to the regular
22 appropriations of the DSWD budget in the subsequent GAA. Other funding requirements
23 may be sourced out from the proceeds of lotto of the Philippine Sweepstakes Office, earnings
24 of the Philippine Amusement Gaming Corporation and earmarked from the proceeds of
25 Republic Act No. 10351, in accordance with pertinent laws and regulations.

26 **Sec. 13. *Repealing Clause.*** – All law, executive orders, rules and regulations or any part
27 hereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

28 **Sec. 14. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared
29 unconstitutional and invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which
30 shall remain in full force and effect.

31 **Sec. 15. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete
32 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation,
33 whichever comes earlier.