

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 9040



Introduced by AKBAYAN Party List Representative Tomasito S. Villarin

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) estimates, Filipinos over sixty (60) years of age is set to triple in the next thirty (30) years. From 7.6 million in 2015, the number of senior citizens is expected to reach 22.6 million in 2045. The number of those aged 60-year-old and over will be estimated to comprise 15.9 percent of the population¹. This is a huge leap from the 7.5 percent composition of senior citizens in the general population.

This projection poses an immense economic challenge that must be addressed early on. As the population continues to age, there is a need to sustain the support for ageing citizens becomes more pertinent. Such provision of social protection is a necessity if society aims to give senior citizens with dignity as they further age.

The social pension envisioned in this legislative proposal is to allow senior citizens to cope up with the rising cost of living.

First, a monthly social pension of one thousand pesos a month will be provided to all senior citizens aged 65 years old and above. Second, indigent senior citizens aged between 60 to 64 years old. Third, five (5) years from the effectivity of the proposed law, all senior citizens shall be entitled to the social pension provided for under the proposed social pension law.

To ensure that fluctuations in the daily subsistence expenses and other needs of seniors are taken into account, this bill proposes a mandatory review of the social pension based on prevailing economic indicators.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority, "2010 Census-Based Population Projections in Collaboration with the Inter-Agency Working Group on Population Projections."

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'T' followed by several vertical strokes and a horizontal line at the end.

TOMASITO S. VILLARIN

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AN ACT
GRANTING UNIVERSAL PENSION TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS AGED SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS AND ABOVE, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE INTRODUCING PARAGRAPH (I) IN SECTION 2 AND AMENDING SECTION 5 (H)(1) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES", AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2003", AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Senior Citizens Universal Pension Act."

SEC. 2. A paragraph (i) is hereby inserted in Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, to read as follows:

"(I) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE MONTHLY STIPEND OR MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO AUGMENT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) PER MONTH."

SEC. 3. Section 5 (h) (1) of the same Act, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(1) Social Pension

[Indigent] ALL senior citizens SIXTY-FIVE (65) OLD AND ABOVE shall be entitled to a monthly [stipend] SOCIAL PENSION amounting to [five hundred pesos (Php 500.00)] TO AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) 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.]

INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS AGED SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD TO SIXTY-FOUR (64) YEARS OLD SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF AT LEAST ONE-THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) TO AUGMENT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE REVIEWED AND, WHEN NECESSARY, INCREASED BY THE DSWD EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS, THE NATIONAL INFLATION RATE, AND OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT.

AFTER FIVE (5) YEARS OF THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, ALL SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION AT THE PREVAILING RATE, WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE-THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00)."

SEC. 4. If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,