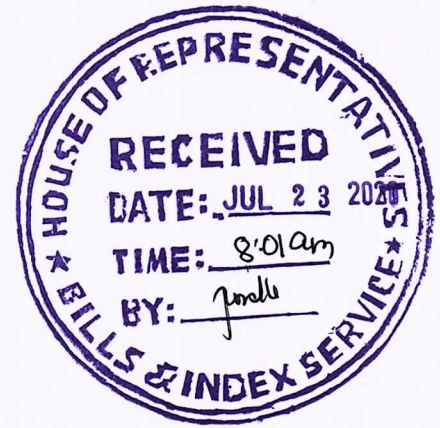


Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7154



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
PROVIDING SENIOR CITIZENS FREE MOVIE ACCESS TO ALL MOVIE
THEATERS NATIONWIDE AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior citizens play an important role in every Filipino family and are very much valuable members of society. It is only just that the State recognize their invaluable contributions to nation-building and support them and their well-being especially during their twilight years.

The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 grants additional benefits and special privileges to senior citizens. Yet, more local government units were able to take their support for the elderly up a notch by introducing free movie access for senior citizens with respect to improving their productivity and well-being.

This bill seeks to provide the elderly greater support in raising and developing their cultural awareness and uplifting their spirits and well-being by granting free admission of senior citizens to movie theatres nationwide, in strong coordination with local government units.

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

ALFRED VARGAS

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Free Movies for Senior Citizens Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies and Objectives. – The 1987 Philippine Constitution declares as policy of the State the promotion of a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services and an improved quality of life. It further declares under Article XV, Section 4 that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social security for them.

Consistent with these constitutional policies, this Act seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) To recognize the rights of senior citizens and their proper place in society, not only in terms off health care and related services but also in the improvement of their well-being and quality of life;

- (b) To motivate and encourage senior citizens to contribute to nation-building through the enhancement of their artistic faculties and exposure to cultural activities;
- (c) To encourage families and communities to reaffirm the Filipino tradition of valuing and caring for our senior citizens; and
- (d) To recognize the important role of the private sector in the improvement of the welfare of senior citizens and actively seek their partnership.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms and phrases shall apply:

- (a) *Free Movie Privilege* refers to the absolute privilege granted to senior citizens under this Act. The term “free” shall mean that fees, charges, and taxes shall not be imposed.
- (b) *Movie Theater* refers to a theater, cinema or movie house where films are shown. The commercial operations of this type of establishment are in the form of selling movie tickets for purchase of the general public. For purposes of this Act, the term includes only regular movie theaters, expressly excluding premium establishments such as 3D, 4D, IMAX, or director’s club theaters and cinemas. The privilege also does not cover special events such as sponsored movie premiers, pay per view showing, and other similar movie screenings that cater to special productions.
- (c) *Senior Citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old.

SECTION 4. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all movie theaters in the country and may be availed of by all senior citizens nationwide.

SECTION 5. *Free Movie Privilege; Availment and Non-transferability.* – The free movie privilege shall be non-transferable and exclusively given to senior citizens upon their personal presentation of duly issued Senior Citizens Identification (ID) Card. Allowing another person to use one’s ID shall result in the revocation of the free movie privilege under this Act. Senior Citizens shall be entitled once a week to the free movie privilege unless the movie theater where they seek admission to has extended the free

movie privilege more than once a week. Every free movie access ticket shall be valid only for a single viewing.

SECTION 6. *Local Government Units and Compliance Monitoring of Movie Theaters.* – Local government units (LGUs) in their respective territorial jurisdiction shall ensure the implementation of this Act in movie theaters within their localities. Each movie theater shall be required to provide an official monitoring sheet where the senior citizens shall register and write their full names, signatures, and Senior Citizen ID number every time they avail of the privilege. The LGUs shall require movie theaters to submit such monitoring sheets and other relevant reports as proof of compliance.

SECTION 7. *Penalty Clause.* – Any movie theater operator who fails to comply with the provisions of this Act shall be meted a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) for every violation.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper for general circulation.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current appropriations of the LGUs. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section, or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected thereby remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,