

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTEENTH (18th) CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9644



Introduced by: **Deputy Speaker Jose L. Atienza, Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our laws defining the benefits of our senior citizens were all founded in the declared policies and objectives of our constitution to provide adequate assistance and services to the elderly to promote or raise their standard of living and an improved quality of life to maximize their contribution to nation building. Thus, Section 11 of Article XIII is very explicit in that “the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution Further declares 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 declared policies and objectives, the undersigned’s attention was called by an article written by Atty. Romulo B. Macalintal, a known advocate for the rights of senior citizens (SCs) and persons with disability (PWDs), published in the Manila Times¹ and the Philippine Daily Inquirer² where he lamented how “Congress abandoned our elderly and pwds” when we amended Republic Act No. 9257 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003) and Republic Act No. 9442 (An Act Amending Republic Act No. 7277, Otherwise Known As The “Magna Carta For Disabled Persons”), which removed their privileges to a 20% discount on toll fees under the radio frequency identification devices (RFID) system, by mere deletion of the word “skyways” from the amended law.

Indeed, a review of these laws clearly showed that what otherwise would have been granted to our elderly as part of their benefits to augment their expenses for transportation, was denied of them.

This proposed legislation simply grants a 20% discount from toll fees paid through radio frequency identification devices (RFID) or similar systems,

¹ The day Congress abandoned our elderly and PWDs – The Manila Times

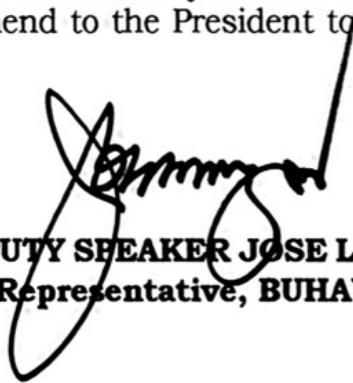
² Bring back 20-percent skyway toll fee discount for elderly and PWDs | Inquirer Opinion

1 provided that the vehicle is registered under the name of the senior citizen in
2 order that this privilege may be availed of.

3
4 Likewise, as pointed out by Macalintal, it will not be difficult to apply the
5 20-percent RFID discount. For a load of, say, P1,000, a senior citizen may pay
6 P800 only, or the P200 discount could be added to his or her RFID card, giving
7 her or him a total load of P1,200 for a P1,000 RFID load purchase.”
8

9 Thus, this bill seeks to restore the said benefits and privileges to our SCs
10 and to rectify the wrong committed against them with the full assurance that we
11 will never abandon them in that their rights and privileges will always be our
12 concern. Whatever discount our senior citizens could derive from the application
13 of this legislation will surely redound to their benefits and welfare considering the
14 pandemic condition we are now suffering.
15

16 In view of the foregoing, the undersigned respectfully moves for the
17 immediate passage of this bill in order to immediately restore the said benefits
18 and privileges to our SCs and to recommend to the President to certify it as an
19 URGENT BILL to expedite its passage.
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24 **DEPUTY SPEAKER JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.**
Representative, BUHAY Party-list

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AN ACT
GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR
CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF
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"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 4(a)(5) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by
2 Republic Act No. 9994, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. -

4 The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

5 Xxxx

6 “(a) xxx xxx

7 “(5) in actual fare for land transportation travel in public utility buses
8 (PUBs), public utility jeepneys (PUJs), taxis, Asian utility vehicles
9 (AUVs), shuttle services, **SKYWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS WHOSE**

1 **TOLL FEES ARE PAID THROUGH THE RADIO FREQUENCY**
2 **IDENTIFICATION DEVICES (RFID) OR SIMILAR SYSTEMS** and
3 public railways, including Light Rail Transit (LRT), Mass Rail Transit
4 (MRT), and Philippine National Railways (PNR).

5 **IN THE AVAILMENT OF THIS PRIVILEGE, THE VEHICLE MUST BE**
6 **REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN. THE**
7 **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**
8 **(DOTC), LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (LRTA), PHILIPPINE**
9 **NATIONAL RAILWAYS (PNR), TOLL REGULATORY BOARD (TRB)**
10 **AND LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY**
11 **BOARD (LTFRB) SHALL ISSUE CORRESPONDING CIRCULARS OR**
12 **DIRECTIVES TO THE PUBLIC LAND TRANSPORT SECTOR FOR**
13 **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE RULES TO ENSURE**
14 **COMPLIANCE HEREWITH, AS WELL AS REQUIREMENTS TO**
15 **THESE OPERATORS TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON THE**
16 **BENEFITS OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS BY POSTERS, HANDBILLS**
17 **OR PAMPHLETS ON BOARD THEIR VEHICLES;**

18 SECTION 2. ***Separability Clause.***- If any part of this Act is declared
19 unconstitutional or invalid such parts or provisions thereof not so declared shall
20 remain valid and subsisting.

21 SECTION 3. ***Repealing Clause.***- All laws, decrees, executive orders,
22 issuances or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall hereby
23 revised or amend accordingly.

24 SECTION 4. ***Effectivity Clause.***- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
25 after its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,