

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9773



**INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

AN ACT
GRANTING ALL PENSIONERS EQUAL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND
BENEFITS AS GRANTED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS “THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”,
PARTICULARLY REFERRING TO THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CASH GIFT
AND THE RIGHT TO GET INCREASE IN PENSION, WHICH ARE DENIED
TO PENSIONERS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7699, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS “THE PORTABILITY LAW”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1994, the Philippine Congress enacted Republic Act No. 7699, otherwise known as the Portability Law, to enable employees or workers in the private sector and the government sector to combine their service, in order to be entitled to pension from either the Social Security System (SSS) or the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or from both systems.

In the implementation however, the GSIS does not give the pensioners under Republic Act No. 7699 the: (1) Annual Christmas Cash Gift and (2) the right to get an increase in pensions based on two Board Resolutions adapted 2007 and 2009, whereas Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as “The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010” expressly provides these two benefits.

Republic Act No. 9994 was enacted into law and signed by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on February 15, 2010, thus annulling the efficacy of the two GSIS resolutions. However, it was reported by the Philippine Association of Retired Persons, Inc. (PARP) that GSIS still is not giving the above-mentioned benefits.

This bill seeks to correct the discrimination and to right the diminution of the pensioners' benefits, especially that even Republic Act No. 7699 expressly prohibits any diminution. This proposed legislation seeks to grant pensioners under Republic Act. No. 7699, the Annual Cash Gift and the right to get increase in pension.

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



ALFRED VARGAS

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 9773

INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
GRANTING ALL PENSIONERS EQUAL RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, AND
BENEFITS AS GRANTED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS “THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”,
PARTICULARLY REFERRING TO THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CASH GIFT
AND THE RIGHT TO GET INCREASE IN PENSION, WHICH ARE DENIED
TO PENSIONERS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7699, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS “THE PORTABILITY LAW”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as **“The Pensioners’ Equal Benefits Act”**.

Section 2. Legislative Intent. – It is the intent of this Act to enact a fair and just law on pension in order that all pensioners as much as possible receive the most equitable reward for their service, without discrimination.

Section 3. Mandate of this Act. – Pursuant to the preceding paragraph, it is hereby mandated that pensioners who had been deprived of benefits, which should have accrued to them, but were denied to them, shall be granted and given the benefits that were deprived to them, in particular the pensioners under Republic Act No. 7699, who were denied: (1) Annual Christmas Cash Gift (2) the right to get increase in pension, for the reason that the Board Resolutions of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) issued in 2007 and 2009, as bases of denial of benefits, had been

nullified, revoked or repealed by Republic Act No. 9994, which was signed into law by then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on February 15, 2010.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Commission of Senior Citizens, in consultation with the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Social Security System (SSS) and with the participation of Retirees', Seniors and Elderly organizations, shall formulate the rules that will implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decree or issuance, executive orders, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule and regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,