

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **10630**



Introduced by
ANAKALUSUGAN REPRESENTATIVE MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution:

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. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.¹

We heed the call of our beloved Senior citizens in their call to have their rights restored, as competently advocated by Atty Romulo Macalintal. In his articles, published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer² and Manila Times³, Atty. Macalintal lamented that “Congress abandoned our elderly and pwds” when we amended R.A. 9257 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003) and R.A. 9442 (An Act Amending R.A. 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.

¹ Emphasis ours

² [Macalintal urges lawmakers to sponsor bill giving 20% toll discount to seniors | Inquirer News](#)

³ [//www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/10/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/the-day-congress-abandoned-our-elderly-and-pwds/807426](https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/12/10/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/the-day-congress-abandoned-our-elderly-and-pwds/807426)

This bill rectifies a wrong and restores a right previously granted to our Senior Citizens under the original Republic Act No. 9257 and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR), which granted a 20-percent discount to seniors “in public railways, skyways and bus fares.”

In view of the foregoing, the undersign respectfully moves for the immediate passage of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Defensor', with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL “MIKE” T. DEFENSOR
Anakalusugan Party-List Representative

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1 AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR
2 CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF R.A. 7432, AS
3 AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE
4 CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS
5 AND SPECIAL PRIVILIGES.”

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

6 Section. 1. Section 4(a)(5) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by R.A. 9994, is
7 hereby further amended to read as follows”

8 “SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens

9 The Senior Citizens shall be entitled to the following:

10 XXXX

11 “(a) xxxx xxx

12 “(5) in actual fare for land transportation travel in public utility buses (PUBs),
13 public utility jeepneys (PUJs), taxis, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs), shuttle services,
14 **skyways and expressways whose toll fees are paid through the radio frequency**
15 **identification devices (RFID) or similar systems** and public railways, including
16 light Rail Transit (LRT), Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Philippine National
17 Railways (PNR); **In the availment of this privilege, the vehicle must be**
18 **registered in the name of the PWD and the latter shall present and submit a**
19 **copy of his PWD Identification Card (ID) to the toll operator when applying**
20 **for RFID. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC),**
21 **Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA), Philippine National Railways (PNR),**
22 **Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and Land Transportation Franchising and**
23 **Regulatory Board (LTFRB) shall issue the proper implementing rules to**
24 **enforce the benefits for the welfare of Persons with Disability (PWD).**
25
26

1 SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* –If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 10963 and other relevant laws and
5 regulations are hereby modified accordingly. Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
6 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is
7 inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended
8 accordingly.

9 SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
10 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

11 Approved,