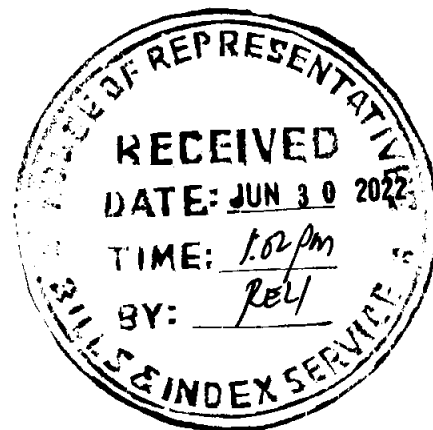


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 83



Introduced by **REP. MARJORIE ANN A. TEODORO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Past crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, are proof the country must set laws ensuring economic protection of its citizens, as vulnerable members of its population bear the brunt of the effects. Due to old age, acquired health conditions and disabilities, senior citizens are unfortunately left with their pensions that are insufficient for any unforeseen medical or economical emergencies. This excludes their needs to provide for their families who may also be equally disadvantaged.

In light of current economic status of the country, there exists the pressing need to strengthen existing laws to consider senior citizens of different economic standing. Following the mandate of RA 7432, this bill seeks to increase the social pension for indigent senior citizens.

This bill was filled in the 18th Congress, but set to be refilled due to the clamor of vulnerable sectors.

In view of the foregoing considerations, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARJORIE ANN TEODORO
Representative
First District, Marikina City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 83

Introduced by **REP. MARJORIE ANN A. TEODORO**

AN ACT
INCREASING THE SOCIAL PENSION OF INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432 ENTITLED, 'AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE
CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT
BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,' AS
AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432 as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. Definition of terms. – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

“(a) x x x;

x x x;

“(h) x x x;

“I) PENSION PROVIDER REFERS TO ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE OR AGENCY, OR ANY PRIVATE ENTITY WHICH PROVIDES PENSIONS TO ENTITLED RECIPIENTS ON THE BASIS OF CONTRIBUTIONS, GRATUITY, OR AS MANDATED BY ANY GOVERNING LAW OR ISSUANCE, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), AND THE PENSION AND GRATUITY MANAGEMENT CENTER (PGMC);

“J) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) PER MONTH.”

SEC. 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. Government Assistance. – The government shall provide the following:

“(a) Employment

“ x x x.

“Private entities that will employ senior citizens as employees, upon the effectivity of this Act, shall be entitled to an additional deduction from their gross income, equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount paid as salaries and wages to senior citizens, subject to the provision of Section 34 of the NIRC, as amended: Provided, however, That such employment shall continue for a period of at least six (6) months: Provided, further, That the annual income of the senior citizen does not exceed the latest poverty threshold as [determined] **PUBLISHED** by the [National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)] **PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA)** for that year.

x x x

“(h) Additional Government Assistance

“(1) **MANDATORY** Social Pension

“Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to [Five hundred] **NOT LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND** pesos [(Php500)] **(Php1,000.00)** 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].

THE DSWD SHALL, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND, WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AS PUBLISHED BY THE PSA AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES.

THE IMPLEMENTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

“(2) x x x

“(3) Social Safety Nets

“Social safety assistance intended to cushion the effects of economic shocks, disasters, and calamities shall be available for senior citizens. The social safety assistance which shall include[, but not limited to] food, medicines, and financial assistance for domicile repair, shall be sourced from the disaster/calamity funds of LGUs where the senior citizens reside, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the [DSWD] **NCSC.**”

SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCSC shall, in consultation with DSWD, DBM and other concerned government agencies, as well as nongovernmental organizations and people’s organizations of senior citizens duly accredited by the DSWD, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DSWD. Thereafter such amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.