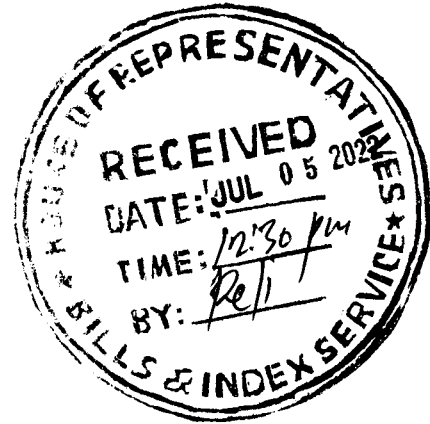


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1213



Introduced by REP. FAUSTINO 'INNO' A. DY V

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2010, Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act was passed to provide better care for senior citizens in the Philippines. The Act sought to achieve its goal through different ways, one of which was to provide indigent senior citizens a monthly stipend of 500 pesos.

More than a decade after RA 9994 was passed, indigent senior citizens are still receiving only 500 pesos every month. With only 500 pesos, a senior citizen in 2022 can buy less food, clothing, and medicines than what he/she could have in 2010 due to rising costs of goods and services in addition to inflation.

This proposed measure seeks to correct the disparity caused by inflation and rising costs by increasing the amount and expanding the scope of the monthly social pension, pursuant to the Act's goal to extend better care for our senior citizens.

This proposed measure seeks to do so in three ways:

FIRST. It raises the minimum amount of monthly social pension from 500 to 1,000 pesos per month;

SECOND. It extends the scope of the monthly social pensions from only indigent senior citizens to all senior citizens who do not have pensions of their own; and

THIRD. It charges the DSWD, in consultation with other relevant agencies, with the duty to review the amount of monthly pension every two years, and, when necessary, increase it.

A similar measure has been passed on 3rd Reading by the House of Representatives in the 18th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill this 19th Congress is earnestly sought.



FAUSTINO 'INNO' A. DY V

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1213

Introduced by REP. FAUSTINO 'INNO' A. DY V

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 the 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) Indigent senior citizen refers to any elderly who is [frail, sickly, or with disability, and] without pension or permanent source of income, compensation or financial assistance from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with the [National Coordinating and Monitoring Board] **NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC). THEREAFTER, THE DETERMINATION OF QUALIFIED INDIGENT ELDERLY SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FULLY FROM THE DSWD TO THE NCSC WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING**

THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT;

"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 (PHP1,000.00) PER MONTH."

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

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(I) MANDATORY Social Pension

"Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to [Five hundred] NOT LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND pesos [(Php 500.00)] (Php 1,000.00) 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 PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT 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) xxx

“(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.”

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

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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,