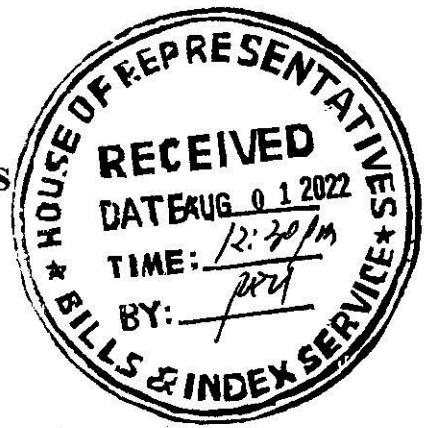


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2815



Introduced by Representatives
HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR. and MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

AN ACT
GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS,
RECOGNIZING OCTOGENARIANS AND NONAGENARIANS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'CENTENARIANS ACT
OF 2016'

EXPLANATORY NOTE

No less than our fundamental law enshrines the care for older people. This filial responsibility is entrusted to the family, which has the primary duty to care for its elderly members, while the State may also do so through just programs of social security. In 2016, Congress passed Republic Act No. 10868 or the Centenarians Act, which honors our senior citizens by granting them a cash gift amounting to one hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00) upon reaching the age of 100.

Unfortunately, not many Filipinos live up to this age. Data from the World Bank pits the average life expectancy of a Filipino citizen at around 67 years old.¹

In line with the policy of the Centenarians Act of 2016 to reward the wisdom and longevity of our elders, the following bill seeks to expand and extend to more of our elders the benefits provided by the Centenarians Act. Our proposed amendment would also allow octogenarians and nonagenarians to benefit from assistance provided by the law.

We hope that by expanding the coverage of the Centenarians Act of 2016, we more aptly honor the invaluable contribution and sociocultural imprint of our elders to our communities, both in this generation and the next.

¹ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.MA.IN?locations=PH>

This bill was previously filed during the 18th Congress and was approved on Third Reading. In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.
2nd District of Sultan Kudarat


MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING
1st District of Nueva Ecija

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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. 10868, otherwise known as the Centenarians Act of 2016 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 2. *Benefits for Centenarians.* - All Filipinos who reach the age of one hundred (100) years old, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honored with:

- a) A letter of felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating the celebrant on one’s longevity;
- b) A Centenarian Gift in the amount of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00); and
- c) All Filipino Centenarians who reach the age of one hundred and one (101) years old shall receive a cash gift in the amount of one million pesos (P 1,000,000.00) on their birthday.

SECTION 2. – A new section denominated as Section 3 of the same Act is added to read as follows:

“Sec. 3. *Benefits for Octogenarians and Nonagenarians.* - All Filipinos who reach the age of eighty (80), eighty-five (85), ninety (90) and ninety-five (95) years old shall also

receive a letter of felicitation from the President and a cash gift of twenty-five thousand pesos (P 25,000.00).

SECTION 3. – Sections 3 and 4 of the same Act are renumbered as Sections 4 and 5, respectively.

SECTION 4. – A new section denominated as Section 6 of the same Act is added to read as follows:

“Sec. 6. *Lead Agency.* - The National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) shall implement the provisions of this Act.”

SECTION 5. – Section 5 of the same Act is renumbered as Section 7 and amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.”

SECTION 6. – Section 6 of the same Act is renumbered as Section 8 and amended to read as follows:

“Sec 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the NCSC shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of Health, the Executive Director of the Commission on Filipino Overseas, and the Undersecretary of the Philippine Statistics Office, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.”

SECTION 7. Sections 7 and 8 of the same Act are renumbered as Sections 9 and 10, respectively.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, and proclamations, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,