

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5041



Introduced by **HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR**
Third District, Bohol

Explanatory Note

Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution states that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members. Additionally, it is the declared policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of life. Under the Declaration of Principles and State Policies in Article II, Sections 10 and 11, it is further declared that the State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development and that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

While the Philippines is considered a young population, it has been found that its older population is one of its the fastest growing demographic sector. Such may be attributed to the increasing longevity of our elderly Filipinos due to the continuously improving overall functional health of the whole population. Even so, many of our senior citizens suffer from inadequate or even a complete lack of earning opportunities due to ailments and other physical limitations, and, sadly, an existing system of age discrimination in many places of employment.

Thus, extending pension coverage and increasing the pension itself is an imminent priority especially for a country facing the impending challenge of an increasingly aging population.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kristine Alexie B. Tutor', written over a vertical line.

HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE THEREOF

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 by Republic Act Nos. 9257 and 9994, otherwise known as the ‘Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010’, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 2. Definition of Terms. — For the purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:”

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.]

“(H) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE MONTHLY STIPEND OR MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO AUGMENT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000) PER MONTH.”

SEC. 2. Section 5 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 5. Government Assistance. — The government shall provide the following:

“X X X

“(h) Additional Government Assistance

“(1) Social Pension

“[Indigent] ALL senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly [stipend amount to Five hundred pesos (500.00)] SOCIAL PENSION OF AT LEAST ONE - THOUSAND PESOS (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 DSWD].”

“THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE REVIEWED AND, WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUSTED OR INCREASED BY THE DSWD EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS, THE NATIONAL INFLATION RATE, AND OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR AUTHORITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT.

“THE COVERAGE OF THE SOCIAL PENSION PROGRAM SHALL ALSO BE REVIEWED BY THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH DBM AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, AND WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO ARE RECEIVING BELOW BASIC PENSION.”

X X X

SEC. 3 Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,