



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5452



Introduced by **HONORABLE ERNESTO “ERNIX” M. DIONISIO, JR.**

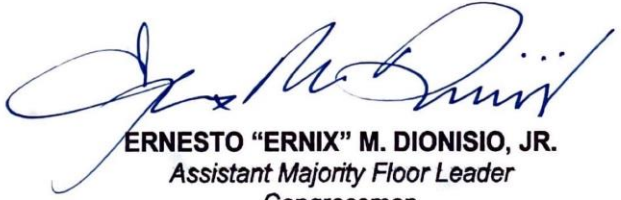
AN ACT
INCREASING THE SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE
CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT
BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’, AS
AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution provides that 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 a priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. Article XV, Section 4 also provides that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly while the State may design programs and social security for them. In line with these Constitutional mandates, Republic Act No. 7432, along with its amendatory laws, Republic Act No. 9257 or the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003” and Republic Act No. 9994 of the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010” were enacted.

However, despite these measures, there is a need to further extend the support given by the State to senior citizens. This is in light of the current economic situation of the country, where the monthly stipend may somehow ease the financial strain. Thus, this proposed bill seeks to extend the social pension to all senior citizens.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernesto M. Dionisio, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERNESTO "ERNIX" M. DIONISIO, JR.

Assistant Majority Floor Leader

Congressman

First Congressional District of Manila



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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.

SECTION 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 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 Sec. 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 by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA)]

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 Pesos (Php500) 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 citizen 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 non-governmental 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.

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. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,