

**AN ACT GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS,
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT No. 7432, AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant universal social pension benefits to all senior citizens, regardless on financial status or income bracket, at an amount of Two Thousand pesos (P2,000.00) per month, subject to review every two (2) years, taking into consideration inflation and the availability of funds. In addition, this bill seeks to propose additional sources of funding for this senior citizen program by specifically allowing augmentation from local government units (LGU) resources, as well as grants, donations, or contributions that may be extended to the LGUs.

Ageing is a great equalizer, and rich or poor, older persons or senior citizens suffer the same consequences of declining health, physical impairment, and diminished financial capacity. The 2007 Philippine Longitudinal Study on Ageing (PLSOA) conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI) provided some revealing insights into the country's elderly population, highlighting two (2) important aspects of ageing – health and economic status, which are both deemed to decline as the years progress. retirement from employment drastically affects the financial capacity of many seniors. Even with retirement or pension benefits (which prove to be meager compared to expenses), the lack of a regular source of income results in great economic instability. Some basic needs like housing, food, and clothing remain, while there is rapidly increasing health-related expenditure. With cash flow fixed, or even greatly reduced, senior citizens may experience an increase in medical expenses such as the requirement for maintenance medicines, regular laboratory tests or check-ups, and even frequent hospitalization or medical treatment such as dialysis.

The Social Protection framework to which the Philippines subscribes requires the development of policies and programs which shall reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks, and enhance the social status and rights of marginalized sectors like the senior citizens, including protecting against the sudden loss of income and improving capacity to manage risks.

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




MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY

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

Nineteenth Congress
_____ Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6309
Introduced by Representative Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay

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

**SECTION 1. Section (5), paragraph (h) number (1) of Republic Act No. 9994 is
hereby amended to read as follows:**

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

(h) Additional Government Assistance

(1) Universal Social Pension

ALL senior citizens, regardless of financial status or economic bracket, shall be
entitled to a monthly stipend of Two Thousand pesos (P2,000.00) to augment
the daily subsistence, medical needs, and other necessities of senior citizens,
subject to review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the
DSWD and the National Commission for Senior Citizens.

A senior citizen may opt to waive such entitlement through proper procedures
and documentation facilitated by the implementing authorities.”

SECTION 2. Fund Source. – Funds necessary for the implementation and expanded coverage of this benefit shall be sourced from the general appropriations allotted to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and/or the National Commission for Senior Citizens (NCSC), the primary agencies tasked with the implementation of the program.

Local Government Units (LGUs) are not precluded from providing additional benefits or financial assistance to augment this social pension privilege of senior citizens to be charged against other internally generated funds of the LGU concerned.

In addition, LGUs may accept donations, contributions, and grants from various sources for purposes of implementing this Act.

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

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

SECTION 5. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved