

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7488**



Introduced by

Senior Citizens Party-List Representative RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to increase the death benefit assistance given to the family or relatives of a deceased senior citizen upon their death.

Growing old does not necessarily make one a victim. Being able to endure a long life is a good sign, and one ought to be appreciative of it. Strictly speaking, when we talk about senior citizens, we mean those people who are sixty (60) years old or older, have retired from private or government service, and are without any other income source other than their retirement plans. We can broaden the definition by adding that a senior citizen is also an individual who earns less than two hundred fifty thousand pesos (P250,000.00) annually. This is to expand the scope of "senior citizens" to encompass those earning sixty thousand pesos (P60,000.00) or less per year, as initially claimed in Republic Act No. 7432.

The lowest price offered by St. Peter Life Plan and Chapels for their memorial service is forty three thousand four hundred pesos (P43,400.00) and the highest price offered is one hundred twenty thousand pesos (P120,000.00). In light of the high cost of memorial services today, there is also a need to include a twenty percent (20%) discount on purchases of memorial services (on a pre-need basis) among many of the privileges now enjoyed by senior citizens in order to reduce the burden on the family left behind by the elderly when he passes away. This discount on funeral services shall be granted to senior citizens by mortuaries anywhere in the country but would only be applicable to At-Need funeral services only: Provided, said funeral service does not exceed the cost of the mortuary's minimum funeral

service package. The grant of a discount under this Act is without prejudice to the right of the beneficiary to avail of other financial assistance given by the government. These amendments are in keeping with the constant changes and rising costs of our society, and as a result, it is necessary for the law governing our senior citizens to address these issues and thus make it truly relevant and reflective of their needs and sentiments. It is worth noting that R.A. 7432 was passed in 1992, but our lifestyles have changed significantly since then.

Furthermore, while the value for the elderly is embedded in Filipino culture and springs from there, it now emanates strength from the Constitution under Article XV, Section 4 which states: "The Family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security." It cannot be denied that senior citizens have made a significant contribution to the common effort in making the Philippines a better country in their own ways, no matter how quiet and small. Given the age group that would significantly benefit from this amendment, which is nearing the end of their lives, it is critical that this bill be given priority consideration.

This bill seeks to ease the financial burden of the family of the deceased in their hour of bereavement by increasing the discounts available to them at the time of death of the senior citizen.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

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AN ACT

INCREASING THE DEATH BENEFIT ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE FAMILY AND/OR RELATIVES OF A DECEASED SENIOR CITIZEN TO A MINIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT (RA) NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING RA NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATIONAL BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS, AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines assembled:

SECTION 1. A new paragraph under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9994, as amended, to read as follows:

"Sec. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens – The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

l) death benefit assistance of a minimum of **Twenty-Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00)** shall be given to the nearest surviving relative of a deceased senior citizen which amount shall be subject to adjustments due to inflation in accordance **with the estimated annual inflation by the Department of Finance.**"

SEC 2. *Suppletory Application.* – For purposes of this Act, the Revised Penal Code, and other applicable laws, shall have suppletory application.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,