

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
19th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7919



Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE “DETTE” G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the government to adopt a comprehensive approach to health development, ensuring that essential goods, health services, and social services are accessible and affordable for all, with priority given to the needs of the underprivileged, such as the sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

Republic Act No. 9994, also known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," amended the previous law, Republic Act No. 7432, to provide better services and assistance to senior citizens. However, due to changes in their needs over time, certain provisions of the law need further amendment.

For example, Section 4.c. of Republic Act No. 9994 entitles senior citizens to a minimum of 5% discount on their monthly electricity consumption, but the current average Filipino household consumption, as of March 2023, exceeds the limit of 100 kilowatt hours (kWh) set by the law, making only a limited number of senior citizens eligible for the discount. Moreover, ineligible senior citizens are still required to pay for the Senior Citizen Subsidy under Article 5, Resolution No. 23, Series of 2010 of the Energy Regulatory Commission. This implementation undermines the original intent of Republic Act No. 9994.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this bill be enacted into law to address these issues and ensure that the rights and privileges of senior citizens are properly upheld


REP. BERNADETTE “DETTE” G. ESCUDERO
1ST District, Sorsogon

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7919

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE “DETTE” G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT GRANTING SENIOR CITIZENS A FIVE PERCENT (5%) DISCOUNT ON THEIR FIRST 200-KILOWATT HOUR (200 KWH) OF ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION AND EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF ANY SENIOR CITIZEN SUBSIDY COLLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2023.*”

Section 2. *Section 4 (c) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act 2003,” and as further amended by Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,” is hereby further amended to read as follows:*

“Sec. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. –

x x x.

*“(c) the grant [of a minimum] **OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) DISCOUNT**, relative to the monthly utilization of water and electricity supplied by the public utilities: Provided, That the individual meters for the foregoing utilities are registered in the name of the senior citizen residing therein: Provided, further, That **THE DISCOUNT SHALL APPLY ONLY TO EVERY FIRST TWO HUNDRED KILOWATT HOUR (200 KWH)** [the] monthly consumption [does not exceed one hundred kilowatt hours (100 kWh)] of electricity and thirty cubic meters (30 m³) of water: Provided, furthermore, That the privilege is granted per household regardless of the number of senior citizens residing therein; **PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT IN THE EVENT THE SENIOR CITIZEN’S HOUSEHOLD CONSUMED MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED KILOWATT HOUR (200 KWH) OF ELECTRICITY AND/OR THIRTY CUBIC METERS (30 M³) OF WATER, THE SENIOR CITIZEN SHALL BE EXEMPT***

***FROM PAYMENT OF ANY SENIOR CITIZEN SUBSIDY
COLLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT.***

Section 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the enactment of this law, the concerned agencies named under Republic Act No. 9994 shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the proper implementation of the aforementioned amendments.

Section 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed and/or modified accordingly.

Section 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.