

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9130**



Introduced by REP. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the recent workshop of National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) together with the World Health Organization (WHO), as of July 2023, NCSC has registered 2,274,531 senior citizens aged 60 to 100 years old across the country. Data estimates the proportion of Filipinos aged 60 and above will increase from 7.4 percent in 2015 to 11.4 percent by 2030 and 15.9 percent by 2045.

However, due to the vulnerability of our Senior Citizens who are prone to illness and medical condition, almost 59-62% of their income or pension is allotted to their health expenses. The remaining percentage are for the continuity of expenses on their everyday lives. Data gathered only 30% of our senior citizens in the country receive pension and with their ballooning population, it is somehow alarming. Facts shows that the economic condition of our country varies also the inflation rate which affect not only our economic development but also our citizens primarily our senior citizens.

As defined by Republic Act No. 9994, any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty (60) years old is referred to as Senior Citizen and shall grant additional benefits and privileges such as Social Pension. This could help the elderlies who are 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 and necessities.

This bill seeks the government to take responsibility in protecting and giving mandatory social pension for all Filipino senior citizens further amending Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act 9257, Republic Act No. 9994, and Republic Act. No. 11916.


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AN ACT GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11916, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "Universal Social Pension for Senior Citizens Act."

SECTION 2. *Universal Social Pension.* — Section 5(h) paragraph (1) of Republic Act (RA) No. 7432, as amended by RA 9257, 9994 and 11916, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* - The government shall provide the following:

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) MANDATORY Social Pension

"[Indigent] **ALL** senior citizens **REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL STATUS OR ECONOMIC BRACKET, UPON REACHING THE AGE OF 60**, shall be **AUTOMATICALLY** entitled **TO RECEIVE A MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION**. [~~to a monthly stipend amounting to not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens.~~]

~~"[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 the 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 MANDATORY SOCIAL PENSION SHALL AMOUNT TO NO LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) AT THE FIRST YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SHALL INCREASE TO NO MORE THAN THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000.00) IN THE SUCCEEDING YEARS, AS THE BUDGET WILL ALLOW, TO SUPPORT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

"PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS AND THOSE WHO ARE CURRENTLY NOT RECEIVING ANY PENSION.

"UPON REACHING THE THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P3,000) LIMIT, THE MANDATORY SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO A REVIEW BY CONGRESS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DSWD.

"THE DSWD SHALL ROSTER INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION BASED ON A CENTRAL DATABASE WHICH INCLUDES THE CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING AND A COMPILATION OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF ALL PENSION PROVIDERS. THE SSS, GSIS, PGMC AND OTHER PENSION PROVIDERS SHALL PROVIDE THE DSWD WITH ACCESS TO THEIR ROSTER OF BENEFICIARIES EVERY MONTH FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY WILL LIKEWISE PROVIDE THE DSWD WITH TIMELY ACCESS TO PERTINENT DATA FOR THIS PURPOSE.

"xxx"

SECTION 3. *Form and Manner of Payment.* — The monthly stipend shall be released to target beneficiaries either in cash, direct remittance, electronic transfer, or other modes of delivery, whichever is more practical and acceptable to the beneficiary, ensuring its release in the most expeditious and efficient manner, through any services offered by the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Any senior citizen may present their National Identification Card to claim their monthly mandatory social pension.

SECTION 4. *Waiver of Fees.* — Any transaction or service fee arising from the engagement of a service provider for electronic transfer, or other modes of delivery which service fees for the release of the monthly stipends and other forms of assistance to target beneficiaries shall not be charged against the target beneficiaries.

SECTION 5. *Transfer of Functions from the DSWD.* — The implementation, distribution, and management of the social pension for senior citizens shall, in accordance with Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7742, as amended by Republic Act No. 11350, be transferred from the DSWD to the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) within a period not exceeding two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act.

The absorption or transfer of regular or permanent and other employees of the affected offices and programs of DSWD shall be done in accordance with applicable laws, including civil service laws, rules, and regulations and subject to the approval of DBM.

SECTION 6. *List of Beneficiaries.* — The DSWD, and thereafter upon full transfer of its functions and programs to the NCSC, with the assistance of the PSA through community-based monitoring system established under Republic Act No. 11315, otherwise known as the "Community-Based Monitoring System Act," and validation by the LGUs, the list of target beneficiaries shall be updated and validated annually.

SECTION 7. *Waiver of Pension.* — Any senior citizen may opt not to receive the mandatory social pension. Any senior citizen who does not claim within forty-five (45) days are considered to have opted out to receive the mandatory social pension.

Unclaimed mandatory pension fund shall be preserved by the DSWD for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Undisbursed Fund.* — Undisbursed funds shall not be reverted to the National Treasury and shall be used to augment appropriation for the following year.

SECTION 9. *Appropriations.* — The mandatory social pension within a period not exceeding two (2) years from the implementation of this Act shall be added to the regular appropriation of the DSWD budget in the General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the regular appropriation for the monthly social pension for senior citizens shall be included in the budget of the NCSC.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the NCSC shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 11916 to carry out the objectives of this Act, in consultation with the Departments of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Budget and Management and other concerned government agencies, as well as nongovernment 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 11. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,