

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9131



INTRODUCED BY HON. 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 estimated the proportion of Filipino 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 daily lives such as utilities for electricity, water, cellphone or landline connectivity, and internet bills. 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 the senior citizens.

This bill seeks the government to take responsibility in protecting and further amending Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act 9257, Republic Act. No. 9994 and Republic Act. No. 11916.

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


RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

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HOUSE BILL NO. 9131

INTRODUCED HON. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

AN ACT
INCREASING THE DISCOUNT RATE AND EXEMPTING FROM THE VALUE ADDED TAX THE MONTHLY ELECTRIC, WATER, LANDLINE OR CELLPHONE CONNECTIVITY AND INTERNET ACCESS CONSUMPTION GRANTED TO SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

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

SECTION 1. Section 4(c) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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

x x x

(c) the grant of a minimum of FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) discount relative to the monthly utilization of electricity, water, cellphone and landline connectivity and internet access supplied by the public utilities AND EXEMPTION FROM THE VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT); *Provided*, That the individual meters for the foregoing utilities are registered in the name of the senior citizen residing therein; *Provided*, further, That the monthly consumption does not exceed ONE HUNDRED FIFTY KILOWATT HOURS (150 kWh) of electricity and FIFTY CUBIC METERS (50m3) of water; cellphone and landline internet plan not more than TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2000) *Provided*, *furthermore*, That the privilege is granted per household regardless of the number of senior citizens residing therein AND THE REGISTERED SENIOR CITIZEN CONTINUES TO LIVE WITHIN THE HOUSEHOLD ADDRESS;

SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulation.* Within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Act, the National Commission of Senior Citizens shall, in consultation with the Energy Regulatory Commission, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System and National Telecommunication Office other concerned utility regulatory agencies, as well as national organizations of senior citizens, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Separability Cause.* 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 4. *Repealing Cause.* All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations and/or administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,