

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. **9569**



**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ERWIN T. TULFO, JOCELYN P. TULFO
EDVIC G. YAP, ERIC GO YAP AND RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING MONTHLY MAINTENANCE MEDICATION SUPPORT FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The "Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Act for Senior Citizens" is a legislative proposal that responds to a critical issue facing our elderly population, particularly those dealing with chronic or long-term medical conditions. It acknowledges the fundamental importance of preserving and enhancing the health and well-being of senior citizens in our society.

One of the primary challenges faced by senior citizens, especially those with ongoing medical needs, is the financial strain associated with obtaining essential medications. Chronic illnesses often require regular and costly treatments, imposing a substantial burden on seniors and their families. This bill recognizes this burden and aims to alleviate it by providing financial assistance.

By offering a monthly stipend of Php 1,000.00 for maintenance medications, this bill is designed to improve the quality of life of our senior citizens and ease the financial constraints they encounter, making it more feasible for them to access the medications they require. It acknowledges that managing chronic diseases should not be compromised due to economic limitations.

Furthermore, the bill is a manifestation of our society's commitment to honoring and caring for our senior citizens who have contributed to our nation's growth and development over the years. It recognizes their invaluable role and endeavors to ensure that they can enjoy their senior years with dignity and good health.

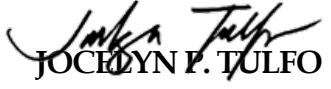
In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



ERWIN T. TULFO



EDVIC G. YAP



JOCELYN P. TULFO



ERIC GO YAP



RALPH WENDEL P. TULFO

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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 "Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Act for Senior Citizens."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - Consonant with Article XIII, Sec. 11 of the Constitution which provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost, giving priority to the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the health and well-being of elderly citizens for their continued meaningful contribution and participation in the society. This Act seeks to provide monthly financial assistance to senior citizens, enabling them to access and afford necessary maintenance medications, thereby enhancing their quality of life and health outcomes.

SECTION 3. *Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.* - The government shall provide monthly financial support amounting to Php 1,000.00 to all senior citizens, hereinafter referred to as "beneficiaries," who are qualified and registered as such under Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010."

SECTION 4. *Eligibility and Registration.* - To qualify for the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support, a senior citizen must meet the following criteria:

(a) Be a Filipino citizen and a registered senior citizen as defined in Republic Act No. 9994.

(b) Submit an application to the Department of Health (DOH) or its designated agency, accompanied by a valid prescription for maintenance medications issued by

a licensed medical practitioner within the last six (6) months from the date of application.

(c) Once approved, beneficiaries shall be issued a Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Card.

SECTION 5. *Use of the Monthly Support.* - The Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall be used exclusively to purchase prescribed maintenance medications, including but not limited to medicines for chronic illnesses, vitamins, and supplements, from all public or private pharmaceutical establishments upon presentment of a prescription validly issued within the last six (6) months from the date of purchase. The Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall not be transferrable to any person other than the person to which the same is provided as named in the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Card. Any unused portion of the support shall not be convertible to cash.

SECTION 6. *Implementation and Coordination.* - The Department of Health (DOH) shall be responsible for the implementation of this Act and shall coordinate with other relevant agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), to ensure the efficient distribution of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.

SECTION 7. *Monitoring and Reporting.* - The DOH shall establish a monitoring system to track the utilization of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support and shall submit an annual report to Congress detailing the program's effectiveness and impact on senior citizens' health and well-being.

SECTION 9. *Penalties.* - Any person who commits fraud, misrepresentation, or any form of abuse in the application or use of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law.

SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOH, in coordination with the DSWD and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, section, or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected 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 or amended accordingly.

SECTION 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,