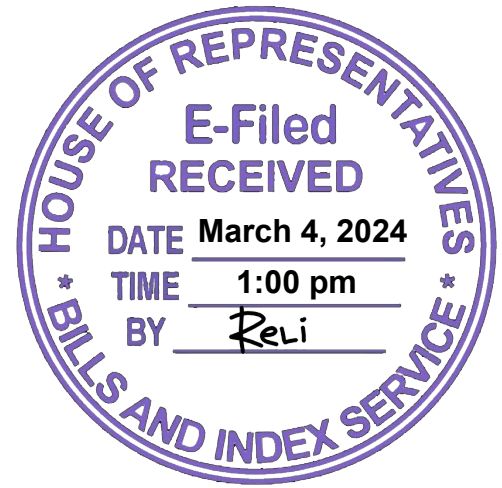




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10019**



Introduced by Representative Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the monthly stipend of indigent senior citizens from Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00) and to provide a monthly stipend of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00) to indigent senior citizens who are seventy (70) years old and above.

The 1987 Constitution provides under Sec. 10 of Article II that, "the State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development. It also provides under Sec. 9 of the Declaration of Principles and State Policies that, "the State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. It further provides under Section 4, Article XV that, "the family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security." These principles enshrined in our Constitution not only serves to protect the less privileged and the most vulnerable sectors in our society but also affirms their important role in the community and as partners in nation- building.

Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 provides for a review every two (2) years by Congress in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development relative to the social pension for indigent Filipino citizens. It cannot be denied that over the years the prices of commodities urgently needed by our elderly have increased. By increasing their purchasing power this measure hopes not only to extend help and support to our elderly but also to encourage them to actively participate and impart their vast knowledge and experience necessary for our country to move forward. It can also be said that those who are in dire need of said social pension are deprived of its benefits due to the age required for them to be

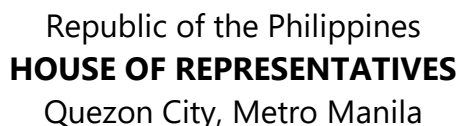
covered as beneficiaries. Considering today's average life span such a requirement is somewhat unreasonable.

Therefore, the time is ripe to re- visit the provisions embodied in the existing statute and uphold the time-honored principle that those who have less in life should have more in law.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is highly and earnestly sought.



RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA



HOUSE BILL NO. **10019**

**AN ACT
INCREASING AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE MONTHLY STIPEND OF
INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS
ACT OF 2010”**

SECTION 1. Section 5, paragraph h, sub-paragraph 1 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

*"Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to [Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)] **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Ph 1,000.00)** to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD. **PROVIDED, THAT THE MONTHLY STIPEND FOR INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P 2,000.00) FOR THOSE WHO ARE (70) YEARS OLD AND ABOVE.***

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or any parts thereof inconsistent with this ACT are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Approved,