



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11050



Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MONTHLY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, HOME CARE
SUPPORT, AND DISCOUNTS ON BASIC NECESSITIES FOR ELDERLY CITIZENS,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “ELDERLY WELFARE AND ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM ACT”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior citizens, particularly those without pension plans or regular income, face economic challenges that severely limit their access to essential goods, healthcare, and basic services. While many elderly individuals rely on family support or charity, these resources are often insufficient to cover their daily needs, making them vulnerable to poverty, malnutrition, and preventable health issues. This Act aims to address these issues by establishing an **Elderly Welfare and Assistance Program**, which will provide monthly financial assistance, home care support, and discounts on basic necessities to ensure that senior citizens live with dignity and access the essentials they need.

In line with the mandates of the **1987 Philippine Constitution** and existing laws that prioritize the welfare and rights of marginalized sectors, this Act provides financial and care support to senior citizens, particularly those without pension plans, to improve their quality of life.

The **1987 Philippine Constitution** provides a solid foundation for the proposed Elderly Welfare and Assistance Program Act. **Article II, Section 9** mandates 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.”

By offering financial assistance and support to senior citizens, this Act aligns with the State's responsibility to promote a social order that cares for its vulnerable members. **Article II, Section 10** further emphasizes that:

“The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development,”

a mandate that the Act upholds by specifically targeting the needs of economically disadvantaged senior citizens, thereby promoting social equity.

Additionally, **Article XIII, Section 11** emphasizes that:

“The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development with priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.”

The Elderly Welfare and Assistance Program Act directly supports this directive by prioritizing the welfare of senior citizens, providing them with financial assistance and home care to address their health and daily needs.

Republic Act No. 9994, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, grants various privileges and benefits to senior citizens, including discounts on goods and services and healthcare benefits. However, it primarily supports seniors who may have some form of income or pension. The proposed Act complements RA 9994 by establishing a dedicated financial assistance program for elderly individuals without pensions, thus addressing a critical gap in current support systems for the elderly population. Similarly, **Republic Act No. 7432**, or the Senior Citizens Act, recognizes the rights and privileges of senior citizens, including access to social programs and discounts. The Elderly Welfare and Assistance Program Act builds on RA 7432 by extending these benefits and establishing financial support and home care services for seniors without sufficient income or family support, thereby enhancing their quality of life and reinforcing the government's commitment to their welfare.

Internationally, the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**, to which the Philippines is a signatory, recognizes **Article 25**, which declares that:

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care.”

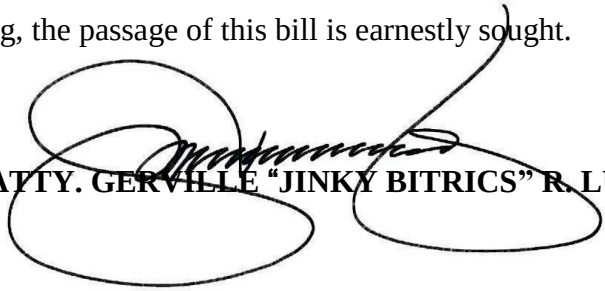
The proposed Act supports this commitment by ensuring that senior citizens without sufficient income are provided the financial means to afford basic needs and access essential health services, fulfilling the State's obligations under international human rights standards. Moreover, as a nation committed to achieving the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, specifically **Goal 1: No Poverty** and **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being**, the Elderly Welfare and Assistance Program Act contributes to these goals by addressing poverty among senior citizens and improving their access to healthcare and essential services. By

supporting vulnerable seniors, this Act helps advance national progress toward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, **Republic Act No. 11350**, or the National Commission of Senior Citizens Act, established the National Commission of Senior Citizens to ensure that senior citizens' rights and privileges are upheld and promoted. The proposed Elderly Welfare and Assistance Program Act complements RA 11350 by creating a structured financial and care support system that directly assists the Commission in fulfilling its mandate to uplift the lives of the elderly.

Through the establishment of the Elderly Welfare and Assistance Program, this bill aims to: (1) Provide regular financial assistance to senior citizens without pensions or stable income, enabling them to afford their basic needs; (2) Offer home care support to ensure that elderly individuals have access to healthcare and assistance with daily living activities, promoting their independence and well-being, and; (3) Strengthen senior citizens' access to essential goods and services through additional discounts, further easing their financial burden.

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



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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 “**Elderly Welfare and Assistance Program Act.**”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is the policy of the State to provide for the welfare and protection of senior citizens, ensuring their access to basic needs, medical care, and support services. The State shall promote measures to alleviate the economic and social challenges faced by senior citizens, particularly those who lack pension plans or stable sources of income.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) **Senior Citizen** shall refer to a Filipino citizen who is at least 60 years of age.
- (b) **Financial Assistance** shall refer to monthly monetary support provided to eligible senior citizens under this Act.
- (c) **Home Care Support** shall refer to services provided to assist senior citizens in managing daily activities within their homes, including healthcare, hygiene, and mobility support.
- (d) **Basic Necessities** shall refer to essential goods and services, including but not limited to food, medicine, hygiene products, and utilities.

SECTION 4. *Monthly Financial Assistance* - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with local government units (LGUs), shall provide monthly financial assistance of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) to eligible senior citizens without pension plans or regular sources of income.

(a) ***Eligibility*** - The monthly assistance shall be granted to senior citizens who:

1. Have no existing pension from the Social Security System (SSS), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), or any private pension fund.
2. Are not receiving regular income from employment or other means.

(b) ***Application Process*** - Senior citizens who wish to apply must submit proof of age, residency, and lack of pension or regular income to their respective LGU's social welfare office.

SECTION 5. *Home Care Support Services* - The Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with LGUs and accredited home care providers, shall establish a Home Care Support Program that includes:

1. ***Regular Health Assessments***: Monthly visits by healthcare professionals to assess the health status of eligible senior citizens and provide necessary medical care.
2. ***Home Assistance***: Basic assistance with daily tasks such as personal hygiene, mobility, and medication management.
3. ***Emergency Hotline Access***: Establishment of a dedicated hotline for seniors to call in case of emergencies or immediate health concerns.

SECTION 6. *Discounts on Basic Necessities* - In addition to existing senior citizen discounts under Republic Act No. 9994 (Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010), eligible senior citizens shall receive an additional discount of:

1. ***10% on Essential Food Items***: Discount applicable at designated grocery stores, markets, and supermarkets.
2. ***15% on Prescription Medications***: Additional discount on top of any current senior citizen discounts, applicable to essential medicines.
3. ***20% on Utility Bills***: Additional discount on electricity, water, and basic communication services for those without regular income or pension plans.

SECTION 7. *Funding* - The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA). Additional funding may be sourced from grants, donations, and other forms of assistance, subject to existing laws and policies.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - The DSWD, DOH, and relevant LGUs shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 9. *Penalties for Violations* - Any individual or institution that obstructs the implementation of this Act or refuses to honor the discounts and benefits provided shall be subject to fines and penalties in accordance with existing laws governing senior citizens' rights.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,