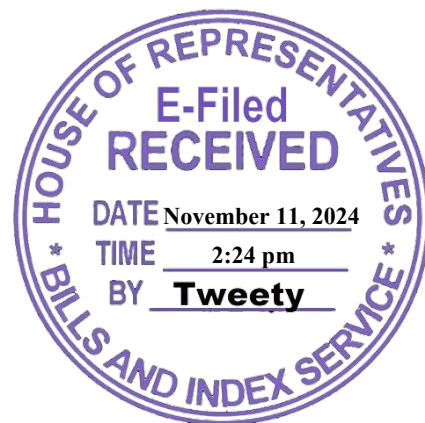


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11055



Introduced by **Representative Wilbert “Manoy” T. Lee**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE IMMUNIZATION TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010,”
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution states that “[t]he State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.”

Senior citizens, being among the most vulnerable groups in our society, face significant risks from various infectious diseases such as influenza, pneumonia, shingles, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus and diphtheria which can cause serious to life-threatening conditions. Many of these diseases can have severe or even fatal effects for older adults, whose immune systems often become weaker as they age. Immunization is one of the most effective ways to protect them from these preventable diseases and reduce the burden on the healthcare system, particularly in the face of a growing aging population.

While the Philippine government strives to aggressively provide basic healthcare services to senior citizens, there remains a significant gap in immunization coverage among the elderly. Several studies have illustrated that senior citizens are less probable to receive timely and proper vaccination, often due to lack of awareness, accessibility issues, or the financial burden of paying for vaccines.

This bill proposes a simple but vital solution: to provide free immunization services to all senior citizens anchored on the aspirations of the Universal Health Care Law. By including free immunization in the benefits already granted under the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, the bill aligns with the government’s broader commitment to protecting the

health and well-being of the elderly, promoting their right to healthcare, and ensuring that they live healthier, longer lives.

This Representation believes that the State must enact measures that will ensure the health and safety of the elderly with the least burden on their part. Senior citizens who have once contributed to society, should not be merely consigned to oblivion - their rights and welfare must be upheld and protected. Safeguarding seniors is the least we can do to repay them for helping us build our nation. Ultimately, the health and immunization of our fellow senior citizens who contributed success in our country shall not be neglected. Senior citizens are of the same level of importance as youth. Therefore, we shall take care of their welfare as they are vulnerable and marginalized sector of our country.

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


HON. WILBERT "MANOY" T. LEE
Representative
AGRI PARTYLIST

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AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS
ACT OF 2010,” PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **Section. 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “Safeguarding Seniors: Free
2 Immunization Act of 2024”.

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the
5 right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

6
7 Consistent with the Constitution which mandates that there shall be priority for the
8 needs of the elderly, the State shall endeavor to provide free vaccination to all senior citizens.
9 In recognizing the vulnerabilities of senior citizens, the State shall protect their health by
10 ensuring that they have a protective line of defense against viruses and other diseases through
11 free vaccination.
12

Sec. 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257, further amended by Republic Act No. 9994 otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010”, shall be hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. —

The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following;

XXX

(f) the DOH **OR ANY APPLICABLE PROGRAM OF THE PHILHEALTH**, shall administer free vaccination against the **influenza virus, TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSI, HERPES ZOSTER, HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) FOR CERVICAL CANCER, and pneumococcal disease, AND OTHER SIMILAR APPROVED VACCINATIONS WHICH THE DOH DEEMS NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL** ~~[indigent]~~ senior citizen patients;”

Sec. 4. Appropriations. - The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of DOH in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments in the annual General Appropriations.

Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

Sec 6. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,