

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 182



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MILAGROS AQUINO – MAGSAYSAY

AN ACT
GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED, ENTITLED “AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION
OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND
SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant universal social pension benefits to all senior citizens, regardless on financial status or income bracket, at an amount of Two Thousand pesos (P2,000.00) per month, subject to review every two (2) years, taking into consideration inflation and the availability of funds. In addition, this bill seeks to propose additional sources of funding for this senior citizen program by specifically allowing augmentation from local government units (LGU) resources, as well as grants, donations, or contributions that may be extended to the LGUs.

Ageing is a great equalizer, and rich or poor, older persons or senior citizens suffer the same consequences of declining health, physical impairment, and diminished financial capacity. The 2007 Philippine Longitudinal Study on Ageing (PLSOA) conducted by the University of the Philippines Population Institute (UPPI) provided some revealing insights into the country's elderly population, highlighting two (2) important aspects of ageing – health and economic status, which are both deemed to decline as the years progress. retirement from employment drastically affects the financial capacity of many seniors. Even with retirement or pension benefits (which prove to be meager compared to expenses), the lack of a regular source of income results in great economic instability. Some basic needs like housing, food, and clothing remain, while there is rapidly increasing health-related expenditure. With cash flow fixed, or even greatly reduced, senior citizens may experience an increase in medical expenses such as the requirement for maintenance medicines, regular laboratory tests or check-ups, and even frequent hospitalization or medical treatment such as dialysis.

The Social Protection framework to which the Philippines subscribes requires the development of policies and programs which shall reduce poverty and vulnerability to risks, and enhance the social status and rights of marginalized sectors like the senior citizens, including protecting against the sudden loss of income and improving capacity to manage risks.

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



HON. MILAGROS AQUINO MAGSAYSAY

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby
2 further amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 2. **Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, these terms are
4 defined as follows:

5 "(a) xxx

6 xxx

7 "(i) *Pension Provider* refers to any government office or agency, or any
8 private entity which provides pensions to entitled recipients on the basis
9 of contributions, gratuity, or as mandated by any governing law or
10 issuance, including the Social Security System (SSS), the Government
11 Service Insurance System (GSIS), and the Pension and Gratuity
12 Management Center (PGMC), **AMONG OTHERS**; and

1 “(j) **UNIVERSAL Social Pension** refers to [the] A
2 **NON-CONTRIBUTORY MONTHLY** monetary grant from the
3 government to support the daily subsistence and medical needs of senior
4 citizens [which shall not be less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00)
5 per month]”.

6 SEC. 2. Section 5(h)(1) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby
7 further amended to read as follows:

8 “SEC. 5. **Government Assistance.** – The government shall provide the
9 following:

10 “(a) xxx

11 xxx

12 “(h) Additional Government Assistance

13 “(1) [Mandatory] **UNIVERSAL Social Pension**

14 (A) Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend
15 amounting to [not less than] **AT LEAST** One thousand pesos
16 (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other
17 medical needs [of senior citizens].

18 (B) **SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE PREVIOUSLY NOT**
19 **CONSIDERED AS INDIGENTS SHALL BE ENTITLED**
20 **TO A MONTHLY STIPEND AMOUNTING TO AT**
21 **LEAST FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) UPON THE**
22 **EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT: PROVIDED, THAT**
23 **WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS ALL SENIOR CITIZENS**
24 **SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A UNIVERSAL SOCIAL**
25 **PENSION EQUIVALENT TO A MONTHLY STIPEND**
26 **OF AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00)**
27 **REGARDLESS OF ANY OTHER PENSION BENEFITS**
28 **THEY MAY RECEIVE FROM OTHER PENSION**
29 **PROVIDERS: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT ANY**
30 **SENIOR CITIZEN MAY WAIVE THIS UNIVERSAL**
31 **SOCIAL PENSION.**

32 [The DSWD shall, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and
33 Management (DBM), in consultation with other stakeholders, review and,

1 when necessary, adjust the amount of the social pension every two (2) years
2 after the effectivity of this Act, taking into account the present consumer
3 price index as published by the PSA and relevant economic indicators, as
4 reported and published by pertinent government agencies and authorities.]

5 "THE DSWD SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE
6 DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AS WELL
7 AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND IF NECESSARY,
8 ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION EVERY
9 TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS
10 ACT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR
11 CITIZENS AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS
12 REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT
13 AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE
14 SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT
15 INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT. THE IMPLEMENTATION,
16 DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION
17 SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL
18 COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD
19 NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF
20 THIS ACT.

21 "x x x."

22 SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The universal social pension for senior citizens
23 shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD in the general
24 appropriations act, and thereafter, to the National Commission of Senior Citizens,
25 upon full transfer of the implementation, distribution, and management of the
26 social pension.

27 SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)
28 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the National Commission
29 of Senior Citizens shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing rules and
30 regulations implementing Republic Act No. 11916 to carry out the objectives of
31 this Act, in consultation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders.

32 SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
33 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected shall
34 continue to be in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 6. ***Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by
2 Republic Act Nos. 9257 and 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior
3 Citizens Act of 2010”, and Republic Act No. 11916 are hereby amended. All other
4 laws, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts
5 thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or
6 modified accordingly.

7 SEC. 7. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
8 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,