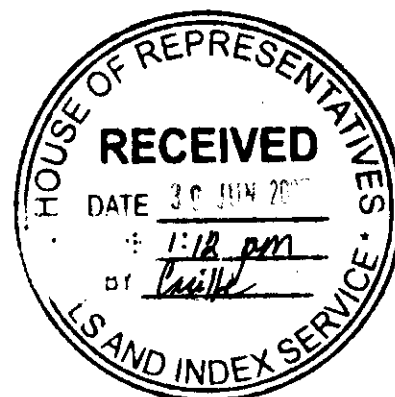


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 323



Introduced by: Hon. Iris Marie D. Montes

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

Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares 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."

Article XV, Section 4 provides 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."

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH), senior citizens or those aged 60 years old and over made up 9.3% (166,678 individuals) of the household population in 2020, higher than the 7.4% (132,893 individuals) recorded in 2015. There were more females (54.4%) than males (45.6%) among the senior citizens in 2020. The same trend was observed in 2015.

By the year 2030, the Commission on Population on Development (CPD) projects that the country's demographic can already be considered an aging population with the steady rise of those 60 years old and above.¹

The World Bank Group says that "Globally, people above the age of 65 outnumber children under 5 and over two-thirds of them live in less developed regions of the world. By 2050, there will be 1.25 billion people who are 65 and over in less developed regions, around 757 million more than in 2020.

Global aging is a triumph of development made possible through rapid increases in life expectancies and falling fertility. It brings new opportunities but also challenges for governments, individuals, households, communities, and economies. Countries need to adapt their social protection and jobs policies and programs to address these challenges and reap the societal and economic benefits

¹ Philippines may have aging population by 2030 – CPD, Rhodina Villanueva, The Philippine Star, January 9, 2024
(<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/01/09/2324420/philippines-may-have-aging-population-2030-cpd>) Accessed on 26 May 2025

of aging. Their ability to adapt will determine their future prosperity and social stability.”²

Towards this purpose, it is the objective of this bill to grant universal social pension to senior citizens in order to maximize their contribution to nation building.

Universal social pension provides security for low-income informal sector workers and supports a dignified old age for all Filipinos while boosting a wider set of development outcomes. It ensures that all poor senior citizens will be covered by the pension program as it leaves no room for targeting error.

Universal social pension facilitates ease and transparency and shields the elderly from the stigma of being poor. It promotes a sense of dignity of senior citizens, reduces inequality, and strengthens inclusive growth.

As a form of social protection and economic empowerment measure, this proposal seeks to help senior citizens in times of financial need amid the soaring prices of basic commodities in the country.

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



IRIS MARIE D. MONTES

Kababaihan, Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan
at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list

² Societal Aging, World Bank Group, October 31, 2022
(<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/pensions/brief/societal-aging>) Accessed on 26 May 2025

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

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

"SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

"(a) xxx xxx

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

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

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

"SEC. 6. Government Assistance. - The government shall provide the following:

"(a) xxx

xxx

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) [Mandatory] UNIVERSAL Social Pension

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

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

[The DSWD shall, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with other stakeholders, review and, when necessary, adjust the amount of the social pension every two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, taking into account the present consumer price index as published by the PSA and relevant economic indicators, as reported and published by pertinent government agencies and authorities.] "THE DSWD SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND IF NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT. THE IMPLEMENTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

"x x x."

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,