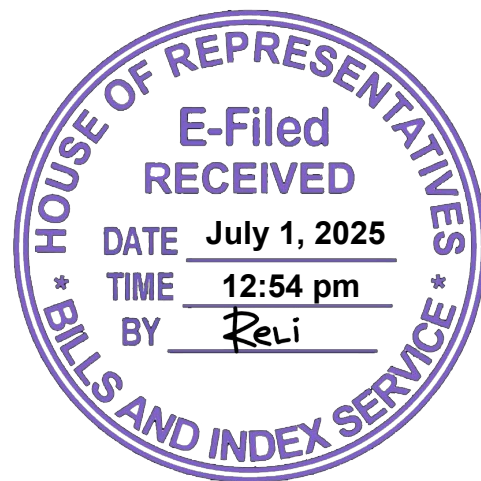




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 780



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO “OMPONG” M. ORDANES

AN ACT
PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES (PWDs) THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS
AND PWD SERVICES IN THE EGOV PH SUPER APP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the age of digitization and technological advancement, bridging the digital divide is crucial, especially for vulnerable sectors, such as senior citizens (SCs) and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

This bill is a product of five (5) joint deliberations of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Senior Citizens, and the Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities regarding their motu proprio inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the implementation gaps regarding Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003,” and Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disability,” and policies that provide discounts, incentives, and tax exemptions for SCs and PWDs.

The Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) launched the eGov PH Super App in December 2022. The platform offers a comprehensive single portal for multi-sectoral government transactions and services, aiming to streamline access to government documents, permits, identifications, and clearances, thereby enhancing the public’s ease of doing business.

Recognizing the importance of inclusivity in digital governance, this bill seeks to integrate a dedicated section within the eGov PH Super App, which shall cater to the specific needs of SCs and PWDs, and offer services, information, and resources to empower them to navigate through available government offerings independently and confidently.

Moreover, the government may also utilize the eGov PH Super App to establish an alternative identity verification system and alleviate the need to present purchase booklets in order to facilitate the SCs and PWDs' access to benefits without undue hindrance. This can be achieved by seamlessly integrating the discount system into the establishments' sales processes, thus streamlining the granting of SCs and PWDs discounts.

This measure was approved on Third and Final Reading by the House of Representatives and has been transmitted to the Senate for consideration in the 19th Congress. We recognize and appreciate the efforts of former Committee on Ways and Means Chairperson, Cong. Joey Sarte Salceda, and former Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities Chairperson, Cong. Alfel Bascug, whose wisdom laid the foundation for this legislation's continued development.

Given the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE EGOV PH SUPER
APP

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
2 to recognize and uphold the fundamental rights of senior citizens and persons with
3 disabilities, ensuring their equal access to government services and acknowledging
4 their invaluable contributions to society.

5 The State shall promote inclusivity, equity, and accessibility in using
6 technology to enable senior citizens and persons with disabilities to access and benefit
7 from government services through user-friendly and tailored digital platforms.

8 The State acknowledges the indispensable role of the private sector in assisting
9 senior citizens and persons with disabilities; therefore, it shall endeavor to promote
10 the transition of discount transactions to digital platforms, thereby fostering a
11 collaborative approach towards the attainment of these policy objectives.

1 SEC. 2. *Adapting the eGov PH Super App for Senior Citizens and Persons with*
2 *Disabilities.* -- The Department of Information and Communications Technology
3 (DICT) shall incorporate dedicated sections within the eGov PH Super App platform
4 with user-friendly interface including adjustable text sizes, voice assistance, and other
5 features for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, which shall provide:

6 (a) access to various national and local government services, including
7 healthcare, livelihood, and social services;

8 (b) informational resources on their rights and privileges; and

9 (c) link with various establishments for seamless access and interaction.

10 Senior citizens and persons with disabilities may continue to avail of
11 government services and assistance through their respective local government units.

12 SEC. 3. *Phases of Implementation and Roadmap.* - The DICT shall ensure
13 access to the eGov PH Super App and develop a roadmap in two (2) phases:

14 (a) **Phase I.** Database Integration and Digital Identification (ID) Cards Issuance -

15 The DICT shall link the eGov PH Super App with the National Identification
16 database of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Philippine
17 Registry for Persons with Disabilities of the Department of Health (DOH).

18 Senior citizens shall be issued digital copies of their IDs powered by the
19 National ID within the eGov PH Super App.

20 Persons with disabilities shall apply for their digital IDs on the eGov PH
21 Super App. The local government units (LGUs) shall be authorized to verify
22 and approve these applications via the e-LGU system within the eGov PH
23 Super App: *Provided, That* in cases where a medical certificate is not required
24 to prove disability, the persons with disabilities shall apply manually in their
25 respective LGUs for physical verification. Upon approval, digital copies of the
26 persons with disability IDs shall be issued to the applicants through the eGov
27 PH Super App.

28 The digital copy of the senior citizen ID or person with disability ID shall
29 be considered as a valid proof of identity of any senior citizen or person with
30 disability for purposes of availing the rights and privileges that one is entitled
31 to under the law.

1 (b) **Phase II.** Availment of Discounts from Establishments via the eGov PH Super
2 App. – The DICT shall enable the integration of business establishments in the
3 eGov PH Super App to enhance the accessibility of discounts to senior citizens
4 and persons with disabilities. Upon integration, these establishments shall
5 verify the identity of senior citizens and persons with disabilities with the
6 electronic Know-Your-Customer Facility or e-KYC in the eGov PH Super App
7 and use the app as an alternative mechanism to the use of purchase booklet for
8 the grant of discounts. The discounts shall include the following:

- 9 i. Twenty percent (20%) discount and value-added tax (VAT)
10 exemption on medicine purchases in all drugstores, as provided
11 under Republic Act (RA) No. 9994, otherwise known as the
12 *“Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,”* and RA 10754, otherwise
13 known as *“An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with*
14 *Disability”*; and
15 ii. Five percent (5%) special discount on basic necessities and prime
16 commodities, as provided under Joint Memorandum Circular No.
17 01, Series of 2022, entitled *“Guidelines on the Provision of the Mandatory*
18 *Statutory Benefits and Privileges of the Senior Citizens and Persons with*
19 *Disabilities on their Purchases through Online (E-Commerce) and Phone*
20 *Call/SMS.”*

21 **SEC. 4. Assistance of a Legal Guardian.** – The legal guardian, as defined by the
22 Family Code of the Philippines and other pertinent laws, shall assist the senior citizen
23 or person with disability, who encounters difficulties in navigating the eGov PH Super
24 App. It shall also be the duty of the legal guardian to monitor the benefits and
25 privileges granted to the senior citizen and person with disability by law. In the
26 absence of a legal guardian, or court-appointed guardian, or pending the appointment
27 of one, the senior citizen or person with disability may authorize anyone of legal age.

28 **SEC. 5. Tax Administration.** – For purposes of tax monitoring compliance,
29 business establishments shall record on the eGov PH Super App the transactions
30 related to the goods purchased and services performed with twenty percent (20%)
31 discount and exemption from VAT, and the five percent (5%) special discount on basic

1 necessities and prime commodities granted to senior citizens and persons with
2 disabilities.

3 SEC. 6. *Transitory Provisions.* –

4 (a) The pertinent agencies and stakeholders shall have a twelve-month
5 transitory period, starting from the effectivity of this Act, to ensure
6 compliance with its provisions.

7 (b) In order to maintain uninterrupted access to features for senior citizens and
8 persons with disabilities until the full implementation of the eGov PH Super
9 App, senior citizens and persons with disabilities may continue utilizing
10 their respective IDs issued by the concerned LGUs for purchasing goods
11 and services from business establishments.

12 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The National Commission of
13 Senior Citizens and the National Council on Disability Affairs, in consultation with
14 the DICT, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Social
15 Welfare and Development, Department of Trade and Industry, DOH, Department of
16 Finance, Bureau of Internal Revenue, and other relevant agencies and stakeholders,
17 shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation
18 of the provisions of this Act.

19 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section, clause, or
20 provision of this Act is declared illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such parts not
21 affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

22 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, issuance, executive
23 orders, letters of instruction, rules, or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of
24 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

25 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

27 *Approved,*