

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 844



INTRODUCED BY **REP. KRISTINE ALIXIE B. TUTOR**

THIRD DISTRICT, BOHOL

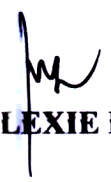
Explanatory Note

Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution states that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members. Additionally, it is the declared policy of the State to 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. Under the Declaration of Principles and State Policies in Article II, Sections 10 and 11, it is further declared that the State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development and that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

While the Philippines is considered a young population, it has been found that its older population is one of its the fastest growing demographic sector. Such may be attributed to the increasing longevity of our elderly Filipinos due to the continuously improving overall functional health of the whole population. Even so, many of our senior citizens suffer from inadequate or even a complete lack of earning opportunities due to ailments and other physical limitations, and, sadly, an existing system of age discrimination in many places of employment.

Thus, extending pension coverage and increasing the pension itself is an imminent priority especially for a country facing the impending challenge of an increasingly aging population.

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


HON. KRISTINE ALEXIE B. TUTOR

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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"**

*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,