



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **1229**



Introduced by **Representative Jefferson F. Khonghun**

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislation aims to expand senior citizen's rights and privileges insofar as pension is concerned thereby maximizing the benefits that they should lawfully receive.

Republic Act (RA) No. 7432 also known as An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and for other purposes, is a law enacted in 1992 and is one of our legislative body's earliest approaches in complying with the Constitution's mandate of taking care of its elderly members. This law was followed by RA No. 9257: the Expanded Senior Citizens Act 2003, which granted additional benefits and privileges to senior citizens, hence, the amending the former law. At the latest, Republic Act no. 9994: the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 was enacted to further amended provisions of RA 7432.

Now, the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 introduced amendments that are comprehensive enough to fill in most of the gaps of the old law, and is sufficient to address the needs of the elderly members of our community. Nevertheless, RA No. 9994 should be reviewed with the primary objective of providing a more responsive and accountable structure in favor of our senior citizens.

The purpose of this bill is to expound on the laws and provisions, as well as rules and regulations governing, the pensions awarded to our senior citizens. It seeks to increase the amount provided to them in avoidance of unwarranted stress over needs that demand expenses, especially that of their health wellness. This bill shall tap into both public and private agencies and instrumentalities that award these pensions in order to devise more means and methods of providing their recipients the service that they deserve, thus taking advantage the technologies and computer programs of today. Moreover, this bill shall see to it that the applications of our senior citizens in the awarding their respective pensions shall be made at the earliest opportunity.

Time and again, we Filipinos are taught to respect our elders, for they have raised us to be the people we are today. This bill, when passed into law, shall serve as our token of gratitude for their unconditional love and guidance.

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



JEFFERSON F. KHONGHUN

First District, Zambales



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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* -This Act shall be known as "Expanded Rights, Benefits, and Pension of Senior Citizens Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of State Policy.* – The State provides that the family has the duty to care its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security. The continued care, safety and welfare and senior citizens is a responsibility shared by the family and the State. In furtherance of health and wellness of its citizens, the 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, giving priority to the elderly and the underprivileged.

SECTION 3. Section 4 (a), (c), and (1) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994 otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4 Privileges for the Senior Citizen's. –

The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

- (a) The grant of the twenty-five percent (25%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of the following goods and services from all establishments, for the exclusive use and enjoyment or availment of the senior citizen
- (b) the grant of a minimum of seven percent (7%) discount relative to the monthly utilization of water and electricity supplied by the public utilities: *Provided*, That a senior citizen resides, and is a member of the household regardless as to whether the individual meters for the forgoing utilities is in the name of the senior citizen: *Provided, further*, That the monthly consumption does not exceed one hundred kilowatt hours (100 kWh) of electricity and thirty cubic meters (30 m³) of water: *Provided, furthermore*, That the privilege is granted per household regardless of the number of senior citizen residing therein;
- (1) death benefit assistance of a minimum of Five thousand pesos (Php5,000.00) shall be given to the nearest surviving relative of a deceased senior citizen which amount shall be subject to adjustment due to inflation in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the DSWD.

SECTION 4. Section 5 (a), (h) (1) of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

SEC.5. Government Assistance. – The government shall provide the following:

(a) Employment

xxx

Private entities that will employ senior citizens as employees, upon the effectivity of this Act, shall be exempt from the payment of income tax: *Provided*, however, That if such employment shall continue for a period of at least one (1) year, then such senior citizen shall be entitled to a deduction from their gross income equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount paid as salaries and wages to senior citizens subject to the income tax table provided under the Republic Act no. 10963 otherwise known as the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Law.

(h) Additional Government Assistance

(1) Social Pension

Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting

to One thousand pesos (Php1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days, from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994, to carry out the objectives of this Act, in consultation with the Department of Finance, Department of Tourism, the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), the DOLE, the DOJ, the DOH, the DILG, the DTI, the DOH, the DOTC, the NEDA, the DepED, the TESDA, the CHED, and five (5) NGO's or Pos for the senior citizens duly accredited by the DSWD.

SECTION 6. *Funding Source.* - The Necessary appropriations for the operation and maintenance of the OSCA shall be appropriated and approved by the LGUs concerned. For national government agencies, the requirements to implements the provisions of this Act shall be included in their respective budgets: *Provided*, That the funds to be used for the national health program and for the vaccination of senior citizens in the first year of the DOH and thereafter, as a line under the DOH budget in the subsequent General Appropriations Act (GAA): *Provided*, further, That the monthly social pension for indigent senior citizens in the first year implementation shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD budget in the subsequent GAA.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All law, executive orders, rules and regulations or any part hereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any pat of provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional and invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,