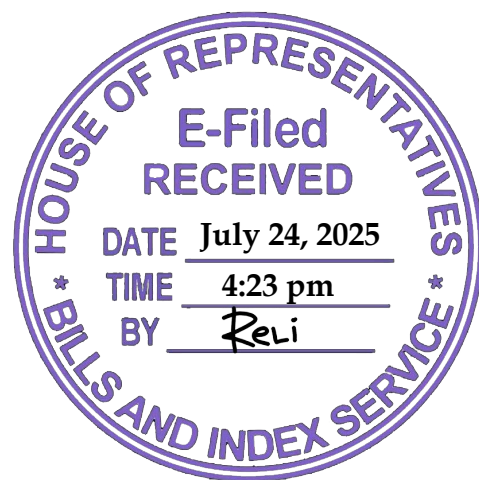




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2303

Introduced by **Representative MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Filipino elderly, having dedicated the prime years of their lives to the growth of their families and the development of our nation, deserve nothing less than dignity, care, and support in their twilight years. Yet, despite the enactment of laws such as Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by R.A. Nos. 9257, 9994, and 11916, many senior citizens remain without adequate financial support, especially those who fall just outside the technical definition of “indigent” or are excluded due to bureaucratic limitations.

Under the current system, only indigent senior citizens – those who are frail, sick, or without regular support – are entitled to the government’s social pension. This leaves out a significant number of senior citizens who, while not classified as indigent, still struggle to meet their daily needs due to inflation, lack of employment, and meager pensions, if any. As the cost of living continues to rise, the present system does not provide equitable support for the broader elderly population.

In recognizing the inherent value of our senior citizens and upholding their right to social protection, this measure affirms the government's responsibility to ensure that no elderly Filipino is left behind. The passage of this bill is a step toward a more compassionate, inclusive, and equitable society.

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



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HOUSE BILL NO. 2303

Introduced by **Representative MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR**

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:

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]”.

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

4
5 “SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* – The government shall provide the following:

6 “(a) xxx

7 xxx

8 “(h) Additional Government Assistance

9 “(i) [Mandatory] **UNIVERSAL** Social Pension

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

14 **(B) SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE PREVIOUSLY NOT**
15 **CONSIDERED AS INDIGENTS SHALL BE ENTITLED**

16 **TO A MONTHLY STIPEND AMOUNTING TO AT LEAST FIVE**
17 **HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF**
18 **THIS ACT: PROVIDED, THAT WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS ALL**
19 **SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A UNIVERSAL**
20 **SOCIAL PENSION EQUIVALENT TO A MONTHLY STIPEND**
21 **OF AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00)**
22 **REGARDLESS OF ANY OTHER PENSION BENEFITS**

23 **THEY MAY RECEIVE FROM OTHER PENSION PROVIDERS:**
24 **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT ANY SENIOR CITIZEN MAY**
25 **WAIVE THIS UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION.**

26 [The DSWD shall, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and
27 Management (DBM), in consultation with other stakeholders, review and, when
28 necessary, adjust the amount of the social pension every two (2) years after the
29 effectivity of this Act, taking into account the present consumer price index as
30 published by the PSA and relevant economic indicators, as reported and
31 published by pertinent government agencies and authorities.]

32 **“THE DSWD SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**
33 **BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AS WELL AS OTHER**
34 **STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND IF NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT**
35 **OF UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE**
36 **FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE**
37 **VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC**
38 **INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT**

1 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES: PROVIDED, THAT
2 THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT
3 INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT. THE IMPLEMENTATION,
4 DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL
5 BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION
6 OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING
7 THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

8 "x x x."
9

10 SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The universal social pension for senior citizens shall be
11 added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD in the general appropriations act, and
12 thereafter, to the National Commission of Senior Citizens, upon full transfer of the
13 implementation, distribution, and management of the social pension.
14

15 SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the
16 effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the National Commission of Senior Citizens
17 shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing rules and regulations
18 implementing Republic Act No. 11916 to carry out the objectives of this Act, in
19 consultation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders.
20

21 SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
22 unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected shall continue to
23 be in full force and effect.
24

25 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act
26 Nos. 9257 and 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", and
27 Republic Act No. 11916 are hereby amended. All other laws, ordinances, orders, rules,
28 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are
29 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
30

31 SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
32 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
33

34 Approved,