



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



TWENTIETH (20th) CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2370**

Introduced by Representative Nelson S. Legacion
3rd Congressional District, Camarines Sur

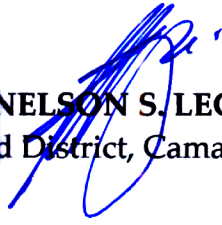
The welfare and dignity of our senior citizens are cornerstones of a just society. While existing laws, such as Republic Act No. 7432, otherwise known as the "Senior Citizens Act of 1992," have provided benefits and privileges, the current social pension program primarily targets only indigent senior citizens. Even then, not all qualified indigent senior citizens are able to avail of the benefit under the current program. This leaves a significant number of our elderly population without direct financial support for their daily subsistence and medical needs, highlighting a critical gap in social protection.

This proposed "Universal Social Pension for Senior Citizens Act" directly addresses this challenge by fundamentally amending Republic Act No. 7432. It seeks to institutionalize a non-contributory monthly monetary grant for all senior citizens, ensuring universal coverage through a phased implementation where all senior citizens will receive the full pension within five years. To ensure its responsiveness and sustainability, the pension amount will undergo regular biennial review and adjustment based on economic indicators. Management of the program will systematically transfer from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) within three years. Crucially, the National Government guarantees continuous and full implementation, making the necessary funding a primary and mandatory budgetary obligation included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The passage of this bill is paramount to uplifting the lives of our elderly. By providing universal and sustained financial assistance, it will significantly

alleviate the economic burdens faced by senior citizens, directly supporting their daily subsistence and medical needs. This Act upholds their inherent dignity, recognizes their invaluable contributions to society, and fosters a more inclusive and compassionate social welfare system. It ensures that no senior citizen is left behind, embodying the State's commitment to protecting and valuing its elder population.

Therefore, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


NELSON S. LEGACION
Representative, 3rd District, Camarines Sur



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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:*

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Universal Social Pension for Senior Citizens Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to uphold the dignity and promote the welfare of its senior citizens, recognizing their invaluable contributions to nation-building. The State shall ensure comprehensive social protection for all senior citizens, particularly by providing a sustained and adequate non-contributory universal social pension that supports their daily subsistence and medical needs, thereby guaranteeing their well-being in their twilight years.

SECTION 3. *Amendment to Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432.* Section 2 of R.A. 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:

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

UNIVERSAL Social Pension refers to **A NON-CONTRIBUTORY MONTHLY** monetary grant from the government to support the daily subsistence and medical needs of senior citizens.

SECTION 4. *Amendment to S Section 5(h)(1) of R.A No. 7432.* Section 5(h)(1) of R.A No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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

a) xxx

xxx

h) Additional Government Assistance

1) **UNIVERSAL Social Pension**

(A) ALL Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to **AT LEAST** One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs.

(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 Department of Social Welfare and Development (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.

SECTION 5. *Appropriations.* – The National Government will guarantee the continuous and full implementation of the Universal Social Pension. All necessary funds, covering the initial stipends (Section 4(A) and 4(B)) and the phased increase to a universal P1,000.00 monthly stipend for all senior citizens within five years, will be mandatorily included in the annual General Appropriations Act. This funding, including any future adjustments, is a primary and continuing budgetary obligation of the National Government, disbursed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and, eventually, by the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) upon full transfer of its management.

SECTION. 6. *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 this Act, in consultation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders.

SECTION 7. *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.

SECTION 8. *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.

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

Approved,