

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 2473

Introduced by Hon. Antonio B. Legarda, Jr.

**AN ACT
PROVIDING MONTHLY MAINTENANCE MEDICATION SUPPORT FOR
SENIOR CITIZENS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is experiencing a rapid rise in its aging population. As more Filipinos enter their senior years, chronic illnesses such as hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease become increasingly prevalent, requiring lifelong access to maintenance medications. For many elderly citizens, these medications are not optional – they are critical to survival and quality of life.

Yet for countless seniors living on fixed or limited incomes, the cost of maintenance drugs remains a significant burden. Despite the discounts provided under Republic Act No. 9994, or the *Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*, out-of-pocket expenses for prescriptions continue to strain household budgets – often leading seniors to skip doses or forgo treatment entirely.

The 1987 Constitution, in Article XIII, Section 11, clearly mandates the State to adopt a comprehensive approach to health and social services, giving priority to the underprivileged, sick, elderly, and disabled. This obligation is not only moral – it is constitutional.

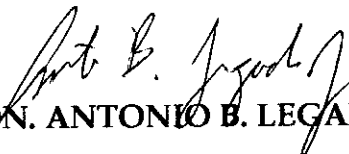
This proposed measure, titled the “Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Act for Senior Citizens,” seeks to provide a direct monthly subsidy of ₱1,000 to qualified senior citizens for the exclusive purchase of prescribed maintenance

medicines. The goal is to ease financial pressure on the elderly, enabling them to consistently manage their health conditions and avoid costly hospitalizations.

The bill sets clear parameters for eligibility, registration, and fund use, ensuring that the subsidy directly benefits its intended recipients. The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other relevant agencies, shall be tasked with the implementation, monitoring, and oversight of the program.

This measure is a concrete step toward institutionalizing preventive and inclusive healthcare for the elderly, in keeping with both constitutional intent and long-term public health goals. It affirms the State's responsibility to promote the dignity, well-being, and continued social participation of our senior citizens.

In line with the policy espoused by its original proponent, Senator Loren Legarda, this bill is being introduced as a counterpart measure. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


HON. ANTONIO B. LEGARDA JR.

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Monthly Maintenance
2 Medication Support Act for Senior Citizens."

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — In consonance with Article XIII, Sec. 11 of the
4 Constitution which provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and
5 comprehensive approach to health and other social services available to all people at
6 affordable cost, giving priority to the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women
7 and children, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the
8 health and well-being of elderly citizens for their continued meaningful contribution
9 and participation in society. This Act seeks to provide monthly financial assistance to
10 senior citizens, enabling them to access and afford necessary maintenance
11 medications, thereby enhancing their quality of life and health outcomes.

12 Sec. 3. *Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.* - The government shall provide
13 monthly financial support amounting to Php 1,000.00 to all senior citizens, hereinafter
14 referred to as "beneficiaries," who are qualified and registered as such under Republic
15 Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010."

16 Sec. 4. *Eligibility and Registration.* - To qualify for the Monthly Maintenance
17 Medication Support, a senior citizen must meet the following criteria:

- 1 (a) Be a Filipino citizen and a registered senior citizen as defined in Republic
2 Act No. 9994;
- 3 (b) Submit an application to the Department of Health (DOH) or its
4 designated agency, accompanied by a valid prescription for
5 maintenance medications issued by a licensed medical practitioner
6 within the last six (6) months from the date of application; and
- 7 (c) Once approved, beneficiaries shall be issued a Monthly Maintenance
8 Medication Support Card.

9 Sec. 5. *Use of the Monthly Support.* - The Monthly Maintenance Medication
10 Support shall be used exclusively to purchase prescribed maintenance medications,
11 including but not limited to medicines for chronic illnesses, vitamins, and
12 supplements, from all public or private pharmaceutical establishments upon
13 presentment of a prescription validly issued within the last six (6) months from the
14 date of purchase. The Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall not be
15 transferrable to any person other than the person to which the same is provided as
16 named in the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Card. Any unused portion
17 of the support shall not be convertible to cash.

18 Sec. 6. *Implementation and Coordination.* - The Department of Health (DOH) shall
19 be responsible for the implementation of this Act and shall coordinate with other
20 relevant agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development
21 (DSWD), to ensure the efficient distribution of the Monthly Maintenance Medication
22 Support.

23 Sec. 7. *Monitoring and Reporting.* - The DOH shall establish a monitoring system
24 to track the utilization of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support and shall
25 submit an annual report to Congress detailing the program's effectiveness and impact
26 on senior citizens' health and well-being.

27 Sec. 8. *Penalties.* - Any person who commits fraud, misrepresentation, or any
28 form of abuse in the application or use of the Monthly Maintenance Medication
29 Support shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law.

30 Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOH, in coordination with the
31 DSWD and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
32 regulations to effectively implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its

1 effectivity.

2 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, section, or provision of this Act is held
3 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
4 effect.

5 Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or
6 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

7 Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

 Approved,