

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2555



Introduced by REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

AN ACT
EXEMPTING SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES FROM
PAYMENT OF TRAVEL TAX AND TERMINAL FEES, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "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

Republic Act No. 9994, or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," was enacted to grant additional benefits and privileges to senior citizens in recognition of their valuable contributions to society. Likewise, Republic Act No. 7277, as amended by Republic Act No. 10754, or the "Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities," ensures the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities (PWDs), including accessibility and economic support.

Despite these progressive legislations, travel-related costs such as travel tax and terminal fees at airports and seaports remain a burden for many senior citizens and PWDs. These fees, although standard for most travelers, disproportionately affect those with fixed or limited incomes, effectively discouraging them from traveling for leisure, family reunification, medical needs, or other personal matters.

This bill seeks to address that concern by exempting senior citizens and persons with disabilities from the payment of travel tax and terminal fees in all Philippine airports and ports. This proposed exemption is a modest yet meaningful gesture of support, one that reflects our society's respect and care for our elderly and PWDs. By amending

Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9994, the bill institutionalizes this exemption and ensures its automatic application upon presentation of valid identification documents.

In line with the principles of inclusivity, social justice, and accessibility, the passage of this bill will ease financial burdens and enhance the mobility of our senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rodolfo' with a stylized flourish.

RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Senior Citizens*
2 *and Persons with Disabilities Travel Tax and Terminal Fees Exemption Act.*”

3 SEC 2. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 9994, as amended, shall be read as
4 follows:

5 “Sec. 5. *Government Assistance.* - The Government shall
6 provide the following assistance to those caring for and living
7 with senior citizens:

8 (h) Additional Government Assistance

9 (4) **Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities shall be**
10 **automatically exempted from payment of travel tax and**
11 **terminal fees imposed in all Philippine airports and**

1 ports, Provided that, they present any identification
2 document that will identify them as such.”

3 SEC 3. *Suppletory Application.* – For purposes of this Act, the Revised
4 Penal Code, and other applicable laws, shall have suppletory application.

5 SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be
6 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other
7 parts thereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

8 SEC 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and
9 regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby
10 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

11 SEC 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
12 publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

13 *Approved,*