

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2606**



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is experiencing a significant demographic shift, with its senior citizen population steadily increasing. According to recent data, a growing number of Filipinos are reaching advanced age, contributing significantly to the nation's social and economic fabric.

While existing laws, such as Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," provide various benefits and privileges to senior citizens, the implementation and accessibility of these provisions often fall short due to inadequate and inconsistent funding across various government agencies.

Senior citizens, as a vulnerable sector, face unique challenges including, but not limited to, declining health, limited employment opportunities, social isolation, and financial insecurity. While their wisdom and experience are invaluable assets to society, a lack of dedicated and sufficient resources can hinder their well-being and active participation in community life.

Currently, the allocation of funds for senior citizen programs is often fragmented, reliant on the discretion of individual agencies, and competes with numerous other priorities within the national budget. This often results in a reactive approach to senior citizen welfare rather than a proactive and comprehensive one.

By mandating all national government agencies, departments, bureaus, offices, commissions, state universities and colleges, and government owned controlled corporations (GOCCs) to allocate a minimum of one percent (1%) of their total annual budget specifically for senior citizens-related programs, this bill guarantees a consistent and substantial funding source.

The allocated funds will support a wide array of programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) that cater to the diverse needs of senior citizens. This includes, but is not limited to, health and wellness initiatives, social welfare services, livelihood and employment programs, capacity building, and initiatives promoting accessibility and inclusivity. This holistic approach aims to improve their overall quality of life.

The enactment of this bill is expected to have a profound positive impact on the lives of senior citizens across the Philippines. Hence, its immediate consideration and passage is hereby earnestly sought.



SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

AN ACT MANDATING ALL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO SET ASIDE ONE PERCENT (1%) OF THEIR TOTAL BUDGET FOR PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES EXCLUSIVE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS-RELATED PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

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 the “One Percent for Senior Citizens Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote and protect the welfare and rights of senior citizens, recognizing their invaluable contributions to nation-building. The State shall ensure the availability of adequate resources for programs and services that address their evolving needs, promote their well-being, and enable their active participation in society.

SEC. 3. *Amendment to Republic Act No. 9994.* - Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257 and Republic Act No. 9994, is hereby further amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. *Privileges for the Senior Citizens.* - The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following: "... "

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“(m) Mandatory Budget Allocation for Senior Citizen Programs. All national government agencies, departments, bureaus, offices, commissions, state universities and colleges, and government-owned and/or -controlled corporations (GOCCs) shall set aside a minimum of one percent (1%) of their total annual budget for the formulation, development,

implementation, and monitoring of programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) specifically designed to benefit senior citizens. This allocation shall be over and above any existing budgetary provisions or mandates for senior citizens, and shall be integrated into their annual General Appropriations Act (GAA) proposals.

The allocated funds shall be utilized for, but not limited to, the following:

(1) **Health and Wellness Programs:** Medical and dental services, health education, preventive care, geriatric care training, and access to assistive devices.

(2) **Social Services and Welfare:** Livelihood and employment programs, social welfare assistance, elder abuse prevention, legal assistance, and establishment/maintenance of senior citizen centers.

(3) **Capacity Building and Empowerment:** Training programs, skills enhancement, civic engagement initiatives, and promotion of intergenerational solidarity.

(4) **Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaigns:** Dissemination of information on senior citizens' rights, benefits, and available services.

(5) **Research and Development:** Studies and initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life of senior citizens and addressing emerging issues.

(6) **Incentives and Support:** Provision of aids, subsidies, and other incentives to qualified senior citizens for education, housing, and other essential needs.

(7) **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Projects that promote age-friendly environments and ensure accessibility to public services and facilities.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in coordination with the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), shall issue the necessary guidelines for the effective implementation and monitoring of this provision.

SEC. 4 . *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and

other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall formulate and issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* - The NCSC, in coordination with the DSWD and DBM, shall regularly monitor and evaluate the compliance of national government agencies with the provisions of this Act and the utilization of the allocated budget. An annual report on the implementation of this Act shall be submitted to the Office of the President, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*- All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulation, and other issuances or part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause* – If for any reason any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,