

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 2894

Introduced by Representative **JESUS R. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In recognition of their invaluable contributions to national development, senior citizens are entitled to a distinct set of rights, benefits, and protections under existing laws. It is a fundamental duty of the State to ensure that our elderly are not left behind, which they are afforded the care, respect, and support they rightfully deserve.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution firmly upholds these principles. Article II, Section 11 declares that “*The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.*” Similarly, Article III, Section 1 affirms that “*No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws.*” These constitutional mandates apply to all citizens, including the elderly. More specifically, Article XIII, Section 11 calls for a comprehensive and integrated approach to health development, giving priority to the underprivileged, the sick, the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, and children. Article XV, Section 4 likewise recognizes the family’s duty to care for elderly members, while also empowering the State to supplement this duty through appropriate social security programs.

This bill seeks to expand the scope of benefits and privileges accorded to senior citizens, particularly with respect to the daily essentials of aging, such as medicines and food supplements. These recurring expenses often place a heavy burden on the elderly, especially those relying solely on modest pensions or retirement pay often insufficient in the face of rising healthcare costs and inflation.

In alignment with the Constitution’s commitment to uphold dignity and promote social justice, the passage of this bill is both urgent and necessary. The State must honor the enduring contributions of senior citizens by ensuring they are equipped with the means to live with dignity, security, and an enhanced quality of life.

Therefore, this bill urgently calls for support and passage to uphold the dignity and welfare of our senior citizens in recognition of their lifelong contributions to nation-building.


HON. JESUS “Jess” R. MARQUEZ

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS PRIVILEGES
AND BENEFITS, FURTHER AMENDING 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 the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is further to read
2 as follows:

3 “SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined
4 as follows:

5 “(a) xxx;

6 “(b) xxx;

7 “xxx

8 “(g) xxx;

9 “(h) xxx;

10 “(i) xxx:

11 “(j) xxx;

12 **“(K) MEDICINES REFER TO THE PRESCRIPTION AND NON-**
13 **PRESCRIPTION OR OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS, BOTH GENERIC AND**
14 **BRANDED, INCLUDING MEDICALLY PRESCRIBED BY THE ATTENDING**
15 **PHYSICIAN, AND APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)**
16 **AND THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA), WHICH ARE**
17 **INTENDED FOR USE IN THE DIAGNOSIS, CURE, MITIGATION,**
18 **TREATMENT OR PREVENTION OF HUMAN DISEASE OR SICKNESS, BUT**
19 **EXCLUDING FOOD, DEVICES OR THEIR COMPONENTS, PARTS OR**
20 **ACCESSORIES; AND**

21 **“(L) FOOD SUPPLEMENTS REFER TO DIETARY OR NUTRITIONAL**
22 **SUPPLEMENTS THAT AID THE NORMAL DIET AND INCLUDE VITAMINS**
23 **AND MINERALS, AMINO ACIDS, FATTY ACIDS, HERBAL PRODUCTS,**

1 **FORMULATED MILK AND OTHER SUBSTANCES IN THE FORMS OF PILLS,**
2 **TABLETS, CAPSULES, POWDERED OR LIQUID FORM.”**

3
4 **SEC. 2.** Section 4 of the same Act is further amended to read as follows:

5 “SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. – The senior citizens shall be entitled
6 to the following:

7 “(a) the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value-
8 added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of the following goods and services,
9 **INCLUDING ONLINE SALES**, from all establishments, for the exclusive use and
10 enjoyment or availment of senior citizens:

11 “(1) on the purchase of medicines, **INFLUENZA AND PNEUMOCOCCAL**
12 **VACCINES, FOOD SUPPLEMENTS**, [~~including the purchase of influenza and~~
13 ~~pneumococcal vaccines~~] and such other essential medical supplies, accessories and
14 equipment to be determined by the Department of Health (DOH);

15 “xxx;

16 “(2) on the professional fees of attending physician/s in all private hospitals,
17 medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and home health care services, **INCLUDING**
18 **PAYMENTS MADE THROUGH HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS**
19 **OR INSURANCE COMPANIES;**

20 “(3) on the professional fees of licensed professional health workers providing
21 home health care services as endorsed by private hospitals or employed through home
22 health care employment agencies, **INCLUDING PAYMENTS MADE THROUGH**
23 **HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS OR INSURANCE COMPANIES;**

24 “(4) on medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees in all private
25 hospital, medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and home health care services, in
26 accordance with the rules and regulations to be issued by the DOH, in coordination with
27 the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), **INCLUDING PAYMENTS**
28 **MADE THROUGH HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS OR**
29 **INSURANCE COMPANIES;**

30 “(5) in actual fare for land transportation travel in public utility buses (PUBs),
31 public utility jeepneys (PUJs), taxis, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs), shuttle services,
32 **TRANSPORT NETWORK VEHICLE SERVICES (TNVS)** and public railways,
33 including Light Rail Transit (LRT), Mass Rail Transit (MRT), and Philippine National
34 Railways (PNR), **AND PAYMENT OF TOLL FEES IN SKYWAYS, AND**
35 **EXPRESSWAYS;**

36 **“TO AVAIL OF THE DISCOUNT ON TOLL FEES, THE VEHICLE MUST**
37 **BE REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN.**

38 **“THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT**
39 **AUTHORITY, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS, TOLL REGULATORY**

1 **BOARD, AND LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND**
2 **REGULATORY BOARD SHALL ISSUE THE APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES**
3 **FOR THE PUBLIC LAND TRANSPORT SECTOR AND REQUIRE THE**
4 **OPERATORS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ON THE BENEFITS OF THE SENIOR**
5 **CITIZENS BY POSTERS, HANDBILLS PAMPHLETS OR SIMILAR MEANS**
6 **ON BOARD THE PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES.**

7 “(6) xxx;

8 “(7) on the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging
9 establishments, restaurants and recreation centers, **INCLUDING GOLF AND**
10 **COUNTRY CLUBS;**

11 “(8) xxx;

12 “(9) xxx;

13 “(b) xxx;

14 “(c) the grant of [~~a minimum of five percent (5%)~~] **FIFTEEN PERCENT**
15 **(15%)** discount [~~relative to~~] **ON** the monthly utilization of water and electricity
16 supplied by public utilities: *Provided*, That the individual meters for the foregoing
17 utilities are registered in the name of the senior citizen residing therein: *Provided*,
18 *further*, That the monthly consumption does not exceed [~~one~~] **TWO** hundred kilowatt
19 hours ([~~100~~] **(200** kWh) of electricity and [~~thirty~~] **FIFTY** cubic meters ([~~30~~] **50** m³)
20 of water: *Provided, furthermore*, That the **DISCOUNT ON ELECTRICITY SHALL**
21 **BE GRANTED ON THE INCREMENTAL USAGE ABOVE THE LIFELINE**
22 **RATE AND WITHIN TWO HUNDRED KILOWATT HOURS (200KWH), AS**
23 **THE CASE MAYBE: PROVIDED, FINALLY**, THAT THE privilege is granted per
24 household regardless of the number of senior citizens residing therein **AND THE**
25 **REGISTERED SENIOR CITIZEN CONTINUES TO RESIDE IN THE**
26 **HOUSEHOLD;**

27 “(d) xxx;

28 “(e) xxx;

29 “(f) xxx;

30 “(g) xxx;

31 “(h) xxx;

32 “(i) xxx;

33 “(j) [~~to the extent possible, the government may~~] **THE grant OF EIGHT AND A**
34 **HALF PERCENT (8.5%)** special discounts [~~in special programs for senior citizens~~] on
35 **THE** purchase of basic **NECESSITIES AND PRIME** commodities, [~~subject to the~~
36 ~~guidelines to be issued for the purpose by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and~~
37 ~~the Department of Agriculture (DA)] **FROM RETAILERS SUCH AS**
38 **SUPERMARKETS, GROCERY STORES, CONVENIENCE AND MINI-**~~

1 CONVENIENCE STORES AND SHOPS, EXCLUDING THOSE WITH A
2 CAPITALIZATION OF LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED
3 THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 100,000.00), PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WET
4 MARKETS, “TALIPAPA” AND COOPERATIVE STORES: *PROVIDED*, THAT
5 THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF PURCHASE SHALL NOT EXCEED FIVE
6 THOUSAND PESOS (PHP5,000.00) PER CALENDAR WEEK WITHOUT
7 CARRY-OVER OF THE UNUSED AMOUNT;

8 “THE CONCERNED RETAILERS SHALL POST SIGNAGES AT THE
9 ENTRANCE OR AT ANY CONSPICUOUS PLACE WITHIN THE
10 ESTABLISHMENT, AND AT EACH PAYMENT COUNTER TO INFORM THE
11 PUBLIC OF THE SPECIAL DISCOUNTS.

12 “THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL, IN
13 CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
14 (DTI), DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY,
15 *BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS*, NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND
16 DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
17 DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES,
18 REVIEW AND ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE SPECIAL DISCOUNT RATE ON
19 THE PURCHASE OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES,
20 AND SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION REPORT TO CONGRESS EVERY
21 THREE (3) YEARS.

22 “(k) xxx; [and]

23 “(l) death benefit assistance of a minimum of [~~Two thousand pesos (Php2,000.00)~~]
24 **TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 25,000.00)** shall be given to the nearest
25 surviving relative of a deceased senior citizen which amount shall be subject to adjustments
26 due to inflation in accordance with the [~~guidelines to be issued by the DSWD~~]
27 **ESTIMATED ANNUAL INFLATION RATE BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS**
28 **AUTHORITY;**

29 “xxx.

30 “(M) EXEMPTION FROM THE UNIFIED VEHICULAR
31 VOLUME REDUCTION PROGRAM IF THE SENIOR CITIZEN IS DRIVING OR
32 ON BOARD THE VEHICLE;

33 “(N) TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT ON TRAFFIC FINES FOR
34 WHICH THEY ARE FOUND LIABLE;

35 “(O) EXEMPTION FROM PARKING FEE IN ALL COMMERCIAL AND
36 GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHMENTS DURING THE REGULAR
37 OPERATING HOURS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT IF THE SENIOR CITIZEN IS
38 DRIVING OR ON BOARD THE VEHICLE ENTERING THE ESTABLISHMENT;

1 “In the availment of the privileges mentioned above, the senior citizen, or [~~his/her~~]
2 duly authorized representative, may submit as proof of [~~his/her~~] entitlement thereto any of
3 the following:

4 “(1) xxx;

5 “(2) xxx;

6 “(3) xxx.

7 “In the purchase of goods and services which are on promotional discount, the senior
8 citizen can avail of the promotional discount or the discount provided herein, whichever is
9 higher.

10 “The establishment may claim the discounts granted under subsections (a) and
11 (c) of this section as tax deduction based on the cost of the goods sold or services rendered:
12 *Provided*, That the cost of the discount shall be allowed as deduction from gross income for
13 the same taxable year that the discount is granted: *Provided, further*, That the total amount
14 of the claimed tax deduction net of VAT, if applicable, shall be included in their gross sales
15 receipts for tax purposes and shall be subject to proper documentation and to the provisions
16 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC), as amended. **LIKewise,**
17 **ESTABLISHMENTS MAY CLAIM THE COST OF VAT EXEMPTION AND**
18 **DISCOUNT GRANTED UNDER THIS SECTION AS TAX DEDUCTION.”**

19 **SEC. 3.** Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the Chairperson of
20 the National Commission of Senior Citizens and heads of concerned government agencies
21 shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing rules and regulations
22 implementing the provisions of RA 7432, as amended, to carry out the objectives of this
23 Act.

24 **SEC. 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
25 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,