



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3591



Introduced by Representative Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE 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

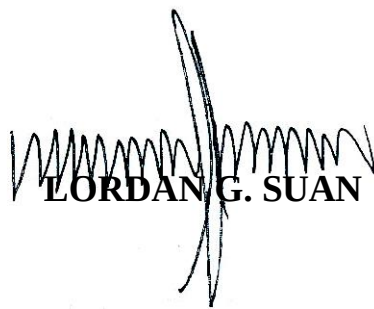
The overarching principle in the conceptualization and design of the universal social pension for all qualified senior citizens is social justice. This aligns with the state policy of providing “social justice in all phases of national development” (Article II, Section X, Philippine Constitution).

When we introduced the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens in 2010 through Republic Act No. 9994, we wanted to address the social plight of ageing Filipinos who were in vulnerable situations. They were suffering from hunger, sickness, neglect, abuse, and discrimination. With minimal financial assistance, we hoped to help them meet their basic needs, such as food and medicine. We doubled their grant with the passage of Republic Act No. 11916. These laws for the indigents disqualify those who receive support from family and those who have pension benefits from pension providers like SSS, GSIS, or PVAO. The well-intentioned social protection laws created resentment among the disqualified, which led to animosity towards the beneficiaries. Upon closer examination, we realized, these are not simple envy or misunderstanding. These are deeply rooted in the struggling situation of those who rely on family support or a regular pension. They, too, are suffering. They, too, need government support

because their pensions cannot meet even their basic needs and necessities. The inflation rate rendered their hard-earned benefit worthless.

The universal social pension is a recognition of the plight of our elderly. This legislation acknowledges their sufferings regardless of whether they're indigent or not. This law is not about who suffers the most or who contributed the most during their able days. This is about equal access to government support, opportunities, and benefits in times of hardship and economic challenge. This is realizing that the majority of our senior citizens are indeed fighting for survival.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



LORDAN G. SUAN



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3591**

Introduced by Representative Lordan G. Suan

AN ACT
GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE 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”

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Universal Social Pension**
2 **Act of 2025.**”

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policies and Objective.** – It is the declared policy
4 of the State to “promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the
5 prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty
6 through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment,
7 a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all” (Article II,
8 Section IX). It shall “promote social justice in all phases of national development”
9 (Art. II, Sec. X). Further, Article XIII, Section XI of the Philippine Constitution
10 mandates that “the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach
11 to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health, and
12 other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be
13 priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and

children."

In consonance with these constitutional policies and mandates, this Act aims to establish a just, responsive, and equitable social security program for all qualified Filipino senior citizens, aligning with our values of filial piety and recognizing their valuable contributions to society."

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

"(a) xxx

xxx

"(i) xxx

"(j) **UNIVERSAL** Social Pension refers to the **NON-CONTRIBUTORY MONTHLY** monetary grant from the government to support the daily subsistence and medical needs of **ALL QUALIFIED** senior citizens, which shall not be less than One Thousand **FIVE HUNDRED Pesos (P1,000.00) (P1,500.00)** per month."

SECTION 4. Government Assistance. Section 5 of Republic Act 7432, as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

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

"(a) xxx

xxx

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) ~~Mandatory~~ **UNIVERSAL** Social Pension

(A) Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to not less than One Thousand **FIVE HUNDRED** pesos (P1,500.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs. ~~of senior citizens.~~

(B) SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED INDIGENTS OR WHO RECEIVE PENSION BENEFITS FROM OTHER PENSION PROVIDERS SHALL BE

1 ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THE ONE THOUSAND FIVE
2 HUNDRED PESOS (P1,500.00) UNIVERSAL SOCIAL
3 PENSION. PROVIDED, THAT IT SHALL BE GIVEN IN
4 TRANCHES OF FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) FOR
5 THE FIRST THREE YEARS.

6
7 The DSWD shall, subject to the approval of the Department of
8 Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with **THE**
9 **NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SENIOR CITIZENS**
10 **(NCSC) AND** other stakeholders, review and, when necessary,
11 adjust the amount of the **UNIVERSAL** social pension every two
12 (2) years after the effectivity **FULL IMPLEMENTATION** of
13 this Act, taking into account the ~~present consumer price index as~~
14 ~~published by the PSA~~ **INFLATION RATE** and **OTHER**
15 relevant economic indicators, as reported and published by
16 pertinent government agencies and authorities.

17
18 “xxx.”

19
20 **SECTION 5. Waiver.** – Any qualified Senior Citizen has the option to waive the
21 right to a Universal Social Pension. Unclaimed Universal Social Pension shall
22 revert to the National Treasury.

23
24 **SECTION 6. Transfer of Functions from DSWD-** Section 5 of RA 11916 shall
25 be amended as follows:

26
27 “The implementation, distribution, and management of the **UNIVERSAL**
28 social pension for senior citizens shall, in accordance with Section 11 of Republic
29 Act No. 7742, as amended by Republic Act No. 11350, be transferred from the
30 DSWD to the NCSC within a period not exceeding ~~three (3)~~ **TWO (2)** years from
31 the effectivity of this Act.”

32
33 xxx

34
35 **SECTION 7. Appropriations.** The amount necessary for the implementation of
36 this Act shall be included in the regular appropriation of the DSWD in the annual
37 General Appropriations Act. Upon full transfer of implementation, distribution,
38 and management of the Universal Social Pension, the amount shall be included
39 in the regular appropriation of the NCSC.

40
41 **SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within sixty (60) days
42 from the promulgation of this Act, the NCSC shall formulate and adopt the
43 amendments to the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 11916 for

1 its effective implementation.

2
3 **Section 9. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
4 or unconstitutional, the provisions not hereby affected shall remain in full force
5 and effect.

6
7 **Section 10. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
8 parts thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are
9 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

10
11 **Section 11. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date
12 of its publication in the Official Gazette or a website provided for by law.

13
14 Approved,