



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3901



Introduced by Representative Irwin C. Tieng

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is recognized in our 1987 Constitution that although the family has the obligation to care for its elderly members, the State may also provide just programs of social security.¹ Currently, senior citizens receive different kinds of pension such as contributory pensions (Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, and others), and social pension for indigent senior citizens in the amount of 1,000 pesos (from 500 pesos). Sadly, thirty-eight percent (38%) of the senior citizens do not receive any pension at all.²

With the universal social pension, the State recognizes the contribution of all senior citizens in nation-building. It closes the pension coverage gap, the thirty-eight percent, and provides a strong foundation for the development of the pension system.³ A study shows that compared to indigent senior citizen social pension, universal social pension is more transparent and easy to understand which creates less space for corruption and clientelism.⁴

The universal social pension will not only augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens but it will also boost their morale as they receive it without any qualifications.

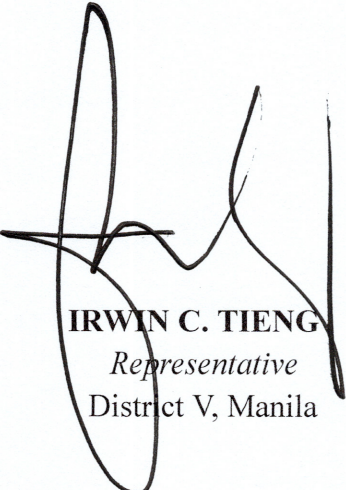
¹ Section 4, Article XV of the 1987 Philippine Constitution

² Horn, David, Charles Knox-Vydmanov, and Aura Sevilla. "The Feasibility of a Universal Social Pension in the Philippines". Quezon City: Coalition of Services for the Elderly, and HelpAge International, 2017

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

In view hereof, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



IRWIN C. TIENG
Representative
District V, Manila



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3901

Introduced by Representative Irwin C. Tieng

**AN ACT GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE 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 in enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

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

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

xxx

xxx

xxx

“(i) UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE MONTHLY STIPEND OR MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND MEDICAL NEEDS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P 1,000.00) PER MONTH).”

SEC. 2. Section 6 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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

xxx

xxx

xxx

“(h) Additional Government Assistance

“ (1) **UNIVERSAL** Social Pension

[Indigent] **ALL** senior citizens **SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P 1,000.00)** to support their daily subsistence and medical needs.

[The DSWD shall, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with other stakeholders, review and, when necessary, adjust the amount of the social pension every two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, taking into account the present consumer price index as published by the PSA and relevant economic indicators, as reported and published by pertinent government agencies and authorities.] **“THE DSWD SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND IF NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT. THE IMPLEMENTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.”**

xxx

xxx

xxx”

SEC. 3. ***Appropriations.*** – The universal social pension for senior citizens shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD in the general appropriations act, and thereafter, to the National Commission of Senior Citizens, upon full transfer of the implementation, distribution, and management of the social pension.

SEC. 4. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the National Commission of Senior Citizens shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 11916 to carry out the objectives of this Act, in consultation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders.

SEC. 5. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. ***Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act Nos. 9257 and 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010”, and Republic Act No. 11916 are hereby amended. All other laws, ordinances, orders, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,