



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3981



Introduced by

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV, Section IV provides: "The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security."

According to latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority, there were 12,336,355 Filipinos aged 60 years old and above as of May 2020. Based on the

2020 Census of Population and Housing, our elderly comprises 11.31 percent of our total population. While there have been efforts from the State to provide for assistance through RA No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, the said law only covers senior citizens who are indigents.

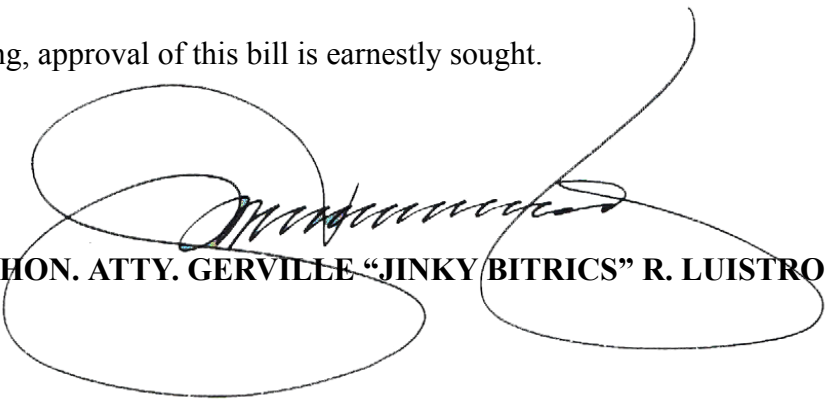
Enacted laws should be encompassing, inclusive and equal to all our people.

After more than a decade of the implementation of the said law, it is high time to remedy such and allow for a more beneficial and evenly balanced financial aid from the State, responding with the current needs of our aging citizens. This bill proposes to mandate the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the National Commission of Senior Citizens to qualify and give financial aid to all senior citizens regardless of their economic or financial circumstances. It likewise seeks to increase the monthly pension for our elderly from Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) to One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) while allowing the DSWD to allocate the unclaimed funds to all active pensioner by the end of the fiscal year - an additional grant to the intended beneficiaries of the law.

Our elderly are one of the most vulnerable sectors that has been hit hard by the pandemic. And with the rising cost of living currently being experienced by

our people, such additional subsidies from our government can go a long way for our senior citizens.

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



HON. ATTY. GERVILLE “JINKY BITRICS” R. LUISTRO



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3981

Introduced by
HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

**AN ACT GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Universal Social Pension for Senior Citizens Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The Constitution recognizes vital initiatives that foster social justice and order, promote social services, and preserve social welfare. Be it noted that Article II, Section IX provides: "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all." Furthermore, as expressed in Article II, Section X: "The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development." In addition, Article II, Section XI emphasizes the value given by the State to the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights. Furthermore, Article XIII, Section XI provides: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children." More importantly, Article XV, Section IV provides: "The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security."

Consistent with the aforementioned Constitutional provisions and principles, the policies stated hereunder shall form part of the declared policies of this Act:

- a) To extend support to our senior citizens by providing monetary resources of the government to aid them towards a sustainable and decent living;
- b) To strengthen our shared duty in the promotion of basic Filipino values especially the rearing of the elderly people; and
- c) To further cultivate filial piety as a basic component of kinship and camaraderie between and amongst our people.

In consonance with the foregoing policies, this Act aims to:

- a) Formulate programs and systems that will ensure propriety and uniformity in its implementation, through a comprehensive and inclusive approach to senior citizens;
- b) Configure existing processes and procedures that will help provide orderly conduct of activities between and among senior citizens and their availment thereof;
- c) Establish norms and customs that will contribute to the development of a just and humane society that recognizes and gives value to the contributions and sacrifices of our senior citizens in and for our communities; and
- d) Reduce the number of financially-challenged senior citizens suffering from lack of or unwanted retirement plans.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a) "Senior citizen" refers to an individual aged 60 years old and above;
- b) "Qualified senior citizen" refers to an individual, aged 60 years old and above, who is eligible to receive the Universal Social Pension (USP), as provided for in this Act; and
- c) "Universal Social Pension (USP)" refers to monthly stipends amounting to PHP 1,000.00 which are granted to qualified senior citizens, as determined and regulated by the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Qualifications.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), NEDA, PSA, and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Universal Social Pension.* - Any qualified senior citizen, as further determined by the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), shall be entitled to receive the Universal Social Pension (USP). The USP, in the form of a monetary grant, shall be given to qualified beneficiaries on a monthly basis, in the amount of PHP1,000.00, and regulated by the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Implementation and Management Plan* - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), together with the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall jointly formulate and devise application, evaluation, distribution, monitoring procedures, and other implementing rules and regulations of the program for the systematized administration thereof. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall be designated as the implementing institution that will promulgate rules to ensure compliance and congruence with the purposes of and provisions provided for in this Act.

SEC. 7. *Waiver of Pension* - Senior citizens may voluntarily file a waiver through the NCSC. Unclaimed pension fund shall be preserved by the DSWD for the purpose of the succeeding section of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Undisbursed Fund.* - Undisbursed fund shall be divided proportionally among the active beneficiaries in the last quarter of the year and shall not be reverted to the National Treasury.

SEC. 9. *Funding.* - The initial required fund of the program shall be determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in consultation with the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), sourced out from the available funds of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Funds, thereafter, necessary for further implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA), subject to the accounting and auditing procedures of the government.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause* - All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, proclamations, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause* - If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its official publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,