

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4181



Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The population of older persons in the Philippines is steadily growing, both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the total population. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), in 2020 there are about 9,242,121 senior citizens. The PSA projects that the number of Filipinos aged 60 and older will nearly triple over the next 30 years, rising from 7.6 million in 2015 to approximately 22.6 million by 2045. During this period, the share of older persons in the total population is expected to double from 7.5% to 15.9%. In addition, life expectancy has increased significantly from around 55 years old in early 1950s to about 69 years old. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), stated that such trend aligns with broader demographic studies indicating that the Philippines is transitioning toward an *aging society*, a shift that is expected to become more pronounced by 2030 when the elderly population will constitute at least 7% of the total population.

According to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), *only about half of the country's senior citizens* receive the monthly stipend under existing laws, highlighting significant gaps in coverage and equity. Under existing laws, senior citizens receive different kinds of pension.

A universal social pension aims to address these gaps by providing a monthly cash benefit to all senior citizens, *regardless of income or socioeconomic status*. This approach seeks to eliminate exclusion, reduce administrative barriers, and recognize the lifelong contributions of all Filipinos to society. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFP) report, the universal pension schemes in Thailand and Vietnam, demonstrates that broad-based programs can effectively reduce poverty and improve quality of life among the elderly.

TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO
Representative
Lone District, Navotas City

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO ALL SENIOR
CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7432, AS
AMENDED**

*Be it 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 by Republic Act No. 9257, further amended by Republic Act No. 9994, as amended by Republic Act No. 11916, is hereby further amended as follows:

“Section 5. Section 5 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

XXXX

“(h) Additional Government Assistance

(1) [Mandatory] **UNIVERSAL** Social Pension

[Indigent] **ALL** senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens.

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 **UNIVERSAL** 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.

x x x x."

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 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,