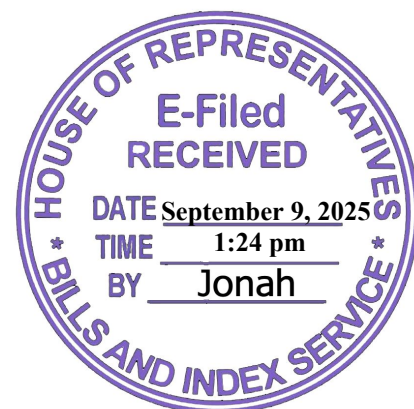


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4457



Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,**
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and
HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA

AN ACT
EDUCATING THE PUBLIC, SENIOR CITIZENS, THEIR FAMILIES
AND THEIR CAREGIVERS ON IDENTIFYING AND PREVENTING
FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES TARGETING SENIOR CITIZENS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution stipulates that, “The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.” Pursuant to this mandate, several laws promoting the welfare and benefits of senior citizens in the country including Republic Act No. 7342 entitled “*An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grants Benefits and Special Privileges*”; Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the “*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003*”; and Republic Act No. 9994, or the “*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*”.

As reported in the last Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority, there were 12,336,355 Filipinos aged 60 years old and above. This is 11.31% of the total population of the country. This shows that they comprise a significant portion of our population. Given their vulnerability,

they deserve all the assistance and support from the government and all members of the society.

Unfortunately, there are unscrupulous perpetrators of wrongdoings that victimize senior citizens. Most of them take advantage of the benefits and privileges given to senior citizens and commonly, they are done through the internet, electronic mail and other advanced means of information and communication technology. Senior citizens are relatively less familiar with advanced technology which makes it easier for the culprits to accomplish their fraudulent activities through these means.

The “Senior Citizens’ Fraud Education Act” seeks to establish a centralized service for consumer education for senior citizens, their families and caregivers, regarding mail, telemarketing and internet fraud that targets senior citizens. This will be implemented by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Postal Corporation.

This measure was already approved on Third and Final Reading by the House of Representatives during the 19th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is highly recommended.



RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III



LANI MERCADO-REVILLA



BRYAN B. REVILLA

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “*Senior Citizens’ Fraud Education Act.*”

Sec. 2. *Centralized Service for Consumer Education on Mail, Telemarketing, and Internet Fraud Targeting Senior Citizens.* –

A. *Requirement.* – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), after consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Philippine Postal Corporation, shall:

- a. Periodically disseminate to senior citizens, and families and caregivers of senior citizens, general information on mail, telemarketing, and internet fraud targeting seniors, including descriptions of the most common fraud schemes;

- b. Periodically disseminate to senior citizens, and families and caregivers of seniors, information on methods available to report fraud targeting seniors, such as:
 - i. Referring complaints to law enforcement agencies, including the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI); and
 - ii. Calling a telephone number established by the DTI for reporting mail, telemarketing and internet fraud.
- c. In response to a specific request by a party to the DTI inquiring about any history of fraud committed by a particular entity or individual, provide to such party any publicly available information on any record of law enforcement action for fraud against such entity or individual by the DTI, and by any other agency that reports such actions to the DTI; and
- d. Maintain a website to serve as a resource for information for senior citizens, and families and caregivers of senior citizens, regarding mail, telemarketing, and internet fraud targeting senior citizens.

B. *Procedures and Commencement.* – The DTI shall establish and implement procedures to carry out the requirements of paragraph (A), including procedures:

- a. With respect to the frequency and mode of dissemination of information; and
- b. That provide for the implementation of the requirements of such paragraph not later than one (1) year after the date of the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Sec. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,