

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4660**



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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**AN ACT PROVIDING MONTHLY SUPPORT TO SENIOR CITIZENS OF  
PRESCRIBED MAINTENANCE MEDICINES, FOOD SUPPLEMENTS, AND  
VITAMINS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which endeavors to make essential goods, health, and other social services available to all people at affordable cost, giving priority to the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

Moreover, Article XV, Section 4 mandates that while it is the duty of the family to care for its elderly members, the State may design programs of social security for them.

As of the 2020 Census of Population and Housing, there were approximately 9.3 million Filipinos aged 60 years old and over and the Philippines is expected to become an "ageing society" by 2030. However, despite these gains, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Department of Health (DOH) identify older persons as a highly vulnerable sector due to the prevalence of chronic illnesses, limited access to healthcare, and high out-of-pocket expenses.

While Republic Act No. 9994 or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" provides for discounts and VAT exemptions, these measures are insufficient to cover the recurring financial burden of maintenance medicines and supplements.

This bill seeks to address these gaps by establishing a Monthly Maintenance Support Program for Senior Citizens, which will provide every registered senior citizen with up to ₱1,000 worth of prescribed maintenance medicines, food supplements, and vitamins.

By institutionalizing this monthly support, the government not only eases the financial pressures faced by elderly Filipinos but also helps prevent costly hospitalizations, reduces the burden on public hospitals, and enhances the overall quality of life of senior citizens. In the long term, this investment in preventive healthcare will prove more cost-efficient for the State.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

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**AN ACT**

**PROVIDING MONTHLY SUPPORT TO SENIOR CITIZENS OF  
PRESCRIBED MAINTENANCE MEDICINES, FOOD  
SUPPLEMENTS, AND VITAMINS, 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. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Monthly  
Maintenance Support for Senior Citizens Act”.

**SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – As provided under Article XIII,  
Section 11 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, it is a  
declared policy that 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.

Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution further declares that it is  
the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the State  
may design programs of social security for them.

**SEC. 3. Objectives.** – This Act shall serve the following objectives:

- (a) To give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of the Philippine society;
- (b) To provide a healthcare support system for senior citizens to foster their capacity to attain a more meaningful and productive ageing.

**SEC. 4. *Monthly Maintenance Support.*** – The Department of Health, in coordination with the National Commission of Senior Citizens and Local Government Units, shall provide all registered senior citizens with monthly maintenance support amounting to One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00) per senior citizen in the form of prescribed maintenance medications, food supplements, or vitamins, at no cost to the senior citizens.

**SEC. 5. *Registration of Senior Citizens.*** – Local Government Units, through their Office for Senior Citizens' Affairs (OSCA), shall maintain, regularly update, and provide a registry of all senior citizens residing within their territorial jurisdiction.

**SEC. 6. *Duty of Senior Citizens and their Guardians.*** – It shall be the duty of senior citizens to register and update their records, including most recent valid prescriptions, with the OSCA to be included in the free monthly maintenance support program. Senior citizens who are suffering from mental incapacity or disability in such degree that prevents them from registering or updating their records must be represented by the senior citizen's court appointed guardian. In the absence of such guardian the duty to register and update shall be in accordance with the order established under Article 199 of the Family Code.

For purposes of this Act, a medical prescription is considered valid for a period of six (6) months from the date of its issuance.

In conjunction with this duty, Local Government Units shall adopt mechanisms that will allow easy, fast, convenient, and accessible registration for senior citizens.

**SEC. 7. *Role of Rural Health Units and City Health Offices.*** – OSCAs shall submit the list of their respective registered senior citizens and requested medicines to the Rural Health Units (RHUs) in municipalities and City Health Offices (CHOs) in cities for consolidation, verification, and removal of duplicate registrations. RHUs and CHOs shall ensure the appropriate distribution of purchased maintenance medicines to senior citizens.

**SEC. 8. *Role of DOH Regional Offices.*** – To expedite the implementation of the Monthly Maintenance Support Program, the budget for the program shall be placed in the DOH Regional Offices. DOH Regional Offices shall have the capacity to purchase medicines for this program, guided by the list of requested medicines and subject to existing laws, rules and regulations. Maintenance medicines purchased by the DOH Regional Offices shall be immediately released to the RHUs and CHOs upon delivery.

**SEC. 9. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budget of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, the DOH, NCSC, DILG and other relevant government agencies, shall formulate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 11. Separability Clause.** – If, for any reason, any section, clause or term of this Act is held to be illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 12. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 13. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*