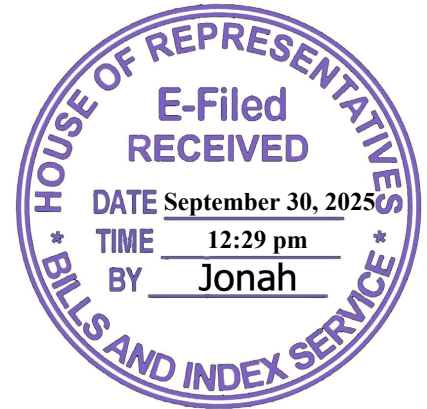


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4996



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reports that senior citizens—Filipinos aged sixty (60) years and above—comprised 8.5% of the country’s midyear population in 2020. This proportion is projected to rise sharply to 19.6% by 2055, reflecting a rapidly aging society. Despite their invaluable contributions to nation-building, many of our senior citizens lack sufficient means of support, with some receiving little to no assistance from their families.

Republic Act No. 9994, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, established a monthly social pension of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for indigent senior citizens to help augment their daily subsistence and medical needs. The law defines “indigent senior citizens” as those who are frail, sickly, or with disability, and without pension or permanent source of income, compensation, or financial assistance from relatives, as determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board (RA 9994 (2010)). This amount was subject to periodic review by Congress.

Recognizing the need for greater support, Republic Act No. 11916 increased the social pension to One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) per month, effective January 2024, for indigent senior citizens (RA 11916 (2022); IRR of RA 11916 (2023)). However, this benefit remains limited to those classified as indigent, thereby excluding many senior citizens who, while not technically indigent, still face significant financial challenges due to the high cost of living, healthcare, and other essential needs.

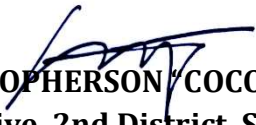
Further, Republic Act No. 11982, the Expanded Centenarians Act, signed into law on 26 February 2024, provides milestone cash grants to Filipino senior citizens at ages 80, 85, 90, and 95, and a larger grant at age 100. While these milestone benefits are laudable, they do not address the daily, monthly, and yearly needs of the broader senior citizen population.

Given the escalating costs of food, medicines, healthcare, utilities, and other basic commodities, there is a compelling need to further increase the social pension to Two Thousand Pesos

(P2,000.00) per month. More importantly, this proposal seeks to extend the benefit to all senior citizens, regardless of indigency or receipt of other pensions such as those from the GSIS or SSS. At age sixty and above, our senior citizens are inherently vulnerable and require regular care, government support, and sustenance.

In recognition of their lifelong contributions and in the spirit of genuine public service, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

SERBISYONG TINUORAY, PARA SA ATONG KATIGULANGAN!


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, 2nd District, Southern Leyte

Republic of the Philippines
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HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT

EXPANDING THE COVERAGE AND INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — Pursuant to the Constitution, it is the declared policy of the State to 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. The State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development and value the dignity of every human person, guaranteeing full respect for human rights (Article II, Sections 10 and 11, Constitution).

Further, Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, prioritizing the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. Article XV, Section 4 recognizes the duty of the family to care for its elderly members, while the State may design programs of social security for them.

The grant of rights and privileges to senior citizens under this Act shall be guided by the following principles:

1. To recognize the fundamental rights of senior citizens and ensure their equal access to government services, discounts, and privileges in acknowledgment of their invaluable contributions to society;
2. To promote inclusivity, equity, and accessibility to goods and services, enabling senior citizens to enjoy adequate social services and a decent standard of living;
3. To adopt measures that assist and appreciate senior citizens, provide beneficial services

and activities, and establish community-based health, rehabilitation, educational, and socio-economic programs;

4. To extend comprehensive social security and health care programs for all senior citizens, including those with disabilities;
5. To support the total well-being and full participation of the elderly in society;
6. To encourage the private sector's active partnership in improving the welfare of senior citizens;
7. To reaffirm the valued Filipino tradition of caring for the elderly within families and communities.

SECTION 3. Coverage. — This Act shall apply to all Filipino citizens who are residents of the Philippines and are at least sixty (60) years old, regardless of indigency status or receipt of other pensions, including those receiving benefits from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS), or other pension providers.

SECTION 4. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** — The government agency mandated to provide assistance to local government units (LGUs), non-government organizations (NGOs), national government agencies (NGAs), people's organizations (POs), and other members of civil society in effectively implementing programs and services for the disadvantaged.
- (b) **Indigent Senior Citizen** — Any elderly person who is frail, sickly, or with disability, and without pension or permanent source of income, compensation, or regular financial assistance from relatives to support basic needs, as determined by the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) in consultation with the DSWD, consistent with IRR of RA 11916 (2023).
- (c) **Medical Needs** — Services and goods necessary for the diagnosis, treatment, cure, or relief of a health condition, illness, injury, or disease, including but not limited to consultations, medicines, and medical procedures.
- (d) **National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC)** — The government agency created under RA 11350, mandated to promote the welfare of senior citizens and ensure the effective implementation of programs and services for their development, health, and well-being.
- (e) **Regular Support from the Family** — Material and/or financial support provided on a regular basis to the senior citizen by any family member or relative.
- (f) **Senior Citizen or Elderly** — Any Filipino citizen who is a resident of the Philippines and

is sixty (60) years old or above.

- (g) **Social Pension** — The monthly cash assistance from the government to senior citizens, which shall be increased to Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) per month, to augment the cost of subsistence and medical needs, regardless of indigency or receipt of other pensions.

SECTION 5. Social Pension for Senior Citizens. — All Filipino senior citizens who are sixty (60) years old and above, whether indigent or not, and residing in the Philippines, shall be entitled to a social pension of Two Thousand Pesos (₱2,000.00) per month, to augment their medical expenses, food, health care, and other essential needs.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The NCSC, in coordination with the DSWD and the Committees on Senior Citizens of both Houses of Congress, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act within one hundred eighty (180) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. — The initial funding requirements for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the NCSC. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, 2nd District, Southern Leyte