

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5427



Introduced by Representative Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 2 AND 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

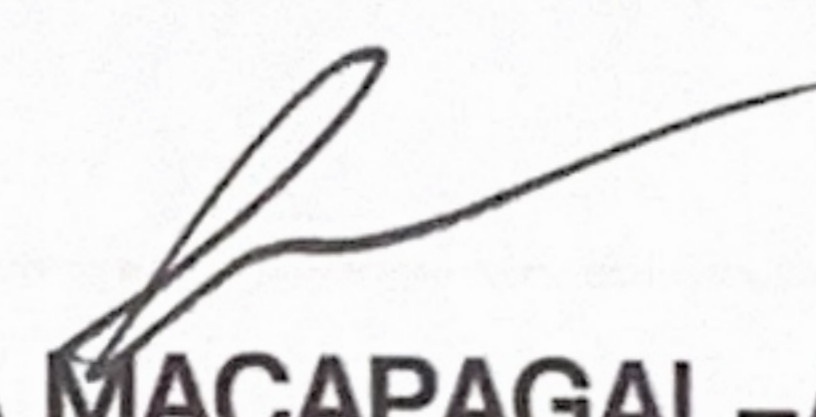
EXPLANATORY NOTE

As individuals age, generating income becomes increasingly challenging. As such, pensions offer a regular and predictable income stream, which is essential for older persons who must manage everyday expenses, healthcare needs, and emergencies. In contrast to irregular or informal support, pensions enable recipients to plan and utilise their resources with greater certainty, thereby reducing stress, enhancing well-being, and empowering seniors to make informed financial decisions.

In addition, social pensions extend beyond individual benefits; they play a crucial role within many households. Older family members often contribute significantly by caring for grandchildren, overseeing household matters, and providing emotional support. A modest pension can help defray costs for food, medicine, utilities, and transportation, alleviating financial pressure on younger family members who may be managing their own obligations.

Establishing a social pension provides a means for older adults to meet their daily needs with increased independence, while also offering relief to family members who strive to manage expenses. The proposed measure aims to mandate government provision of a social pension amounting to P1,000 to all senior citizens lacking social pension or receiving less than P3,000.

In light of the foregoing considerations, prompt passage of this bill is respectfully requested.



GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Representative, 2nd District of Pampanga

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"EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

*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, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2020", is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

xxx xxx xxx

["(h) Indigent senior citizen refers to any elderly who is frail, sickly, or with 8 disability, and without pension or permanent source of income, compensation or financial assistance—from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, as

determined by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (D5WD) —in consultation with the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board.”]

Sec. 2. Section 5 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 5. *Government Assistance*. – The government shall provide the following:

xxx xxx xxx

“(h) Additional Government Assistance

“(1) Social Pension

“[Indigent] ALL senior citizens WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING PENSION OR WHO ARE RECEIVING PENSION IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (Php3,500.00) AND BELOW FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), AND PENSION AND GRATUITY MANAGEMENT CENTER (PGMC), shall be entitled to a monthly stipend OF AT LEAST [~~amounting to Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)] ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, WHICH AMOUNT SHALL BE [subject to a review] REVIEWED every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD OR ANY AGENCY THAT SHALL BE SO DESIGNATED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATIONAL INFLATION RATE AND OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS.~~

SENIOR CITIZENS WHO DO NOT NEED GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AUGMENT THEIR DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND MEDICAL NEEDS MAY OPT NOT TO CLAIM THE MONTHLY STIPEND. UNCLAIMED SOCIAL PENSION FUNDS SHALL REVERT BACK TO THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND FORM PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL FUND.

xxx xxx xxx

Sec 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,