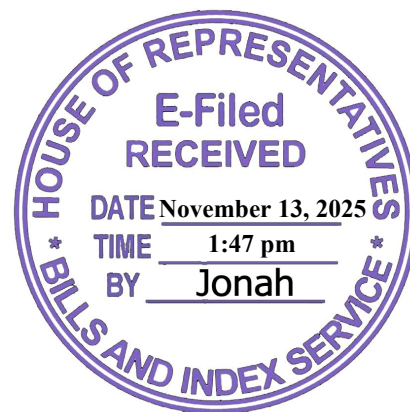


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5962



Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative measure seeks to amend Republic Act No. 7432, otherwise known as "The Seniors Citizens Act". The proposed amendment intends to ensure that senior citizens are provided with a stable and reliable source of financial support to help meet their essential needs, particularly for food, medicine and other basic necessities, thereby ensuring their well-being in their later years.

Based on studies, while the Philippines is known for its strong culture of family support, many households face increasing difficulty in providing for their elderly members due to competing financial demands and limited resources. This bill seeks to address this gap by ensuring a more inclusive system of support that upholds the dignity of older persons and alleviates the economic burden on families, thereby contributing to the reduction of poverty at the household level.

Other studies show that many Filipinos remain inadequately prepared for old age, lacking sufficient pension coverage and financial security, which forces them to continue working even in their later years. While life expectancy continues to increase, the aspiration for a comfortable and peaceful retirement remains out of reach for many. Hence, there is a pressing need for society to acknowledge the lifelong contributions of older persons and to guarantee that they age with dignity, free from the hardships caused by poverty.

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


Ryan S. Recto
Representative
6th District, Batangas

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5962

Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

AN ACT
GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED ENTITLED "AN
ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION
BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES"

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended is hereby further
2 amended to read as follows:

3
4 "Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined
5 as follows:

6
7 "(a) x x x

8
9 x x x

10
11 (i) *Pension Provider* refers to any government office or agency, or any
12 private entity which provides pensions to entitled recipients on the basis
13 of contributions, gratuity, or as mandated by any governing law or
14 issuance, including the Social Security System (SSS), the Government
15 Service Insurance System (GSIS), and the Pension and Gratuity
16 Management Center (PGMC), **AMONG OTHERS**; and

17
18 (j) **UNIVERSAL** *Social Pension* refers to [the] **A NON-CONTRIBUTORY**
19 **MONTHLY** monetary grant from the government to support the daily
20 subsistence and medical needs for senior citizens [which shall not be less
21 than One thousand pesos (P1,000) per month]".
22
23

SEC. 2. Section 5(h)(1) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* – The government shall provide the following:

(a) x x x

x x x

(h) Additional Government Assistance

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

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

(B) **SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE PREVIOUSLY NOT CONSIDERED AS INDIGENT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY STIPEND AMOUNTING TO AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT: PROVIDED, THAT WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS ALL SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION EQUIVALENT TO A MONTHLY STIPEND OF AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) REGARDLESS OF ANY OTHER PENSION BENEFITS THEY MAY RECEIVE FROM OTHER PENSION PROVIDERS: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT ANY SENIOR CITIZEN MAY WAIVE THIS UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION.**

~~[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 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.]~~

"THE DSWD SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND IF NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND

1 **PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND**
2 **AUTHORITIES: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL**
3 **NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS**
4 **ACT. THE IMPLEMENTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND**
5 **MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE**
6 **TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL**
7 **COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD**
8 **NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF**
9 **THIS ACT.**

10
11 x x x."

12
13 SEC. 3. *Appropriations.* – The universal social pension for senior citizens shalla
14 be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD in the general appropriations act,
15 and thereafter, to the National Commission of Senior Citizens, upon full transfer of the
16 implementation, distribution, and management of the social pension.

17
18 Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from
19 the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the National Commission of Senior
20 Citizens shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing rules and regulation
21 implementing Republic Act No. 11916 to carry out the objectives of this Act, in
22 consultation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders.

23 Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
24 unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or portions not affected thereby shall remain in
25 full force and effect.

26
27 Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act
28 Nos. 9257 and 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010",
29 and Republic Act No. 11916 are hereby amended. All other laws, ordinances, orders,
30 rules, regulation and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this
31 Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

32
33 Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
34 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official
35 Gazette.

36
37 *Approved,*