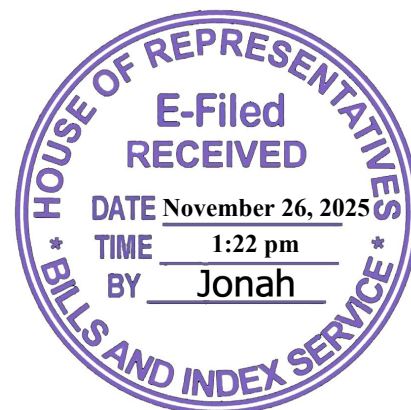


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6410



Introduced by Lone District of Agusan del Norte Representative
HON. DALE B. CORVERA

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”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution affirms the duty of families to care for their elderly members. Complementing this, Article II declares the State’s obligation to promote social justice, uphold human dignity and provide adequate social services that improve the quality of life of all Filipinos. These constitutional directives underscore the nation’s responsibility to protect older persons especially those who can no longer fully support themselves.

Over the years Congress has enacted key measures such as Republic Act No. 7432, the Senior Citizens Act of 1992 and its subsequent amendments under RA 9257, RA 9994 and RA 11916 which expanded the benefits and social protection mechanisms afforded to senior citizens. Despite these legislative gains many elderly Filipinos continue to face economic vulnerability due to limited employment opportunities, physical limitations, rising healthcare needs and persistent age discrimination in the workplace.

While the Philippines remains a young nation demographically, its older population is among the fastest growing. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority there are 10.8 million Filipinos aged 60 and above as of the 2020 Census representing roughly 10 percent of the total population.¹ Improvements in life expectancy now estimated at 71.7 years for males and 77.4 years for females² reflect progress in health outcomes but they also mean more Filipinos are living longer without adequate income security. A substantial share of senior citizens lacks formal pensions with only about 30 to 33 percent of older persons receiving contributory retirement benefits through SSS or GSIS according to national and international aging studies.³

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH): Highlights of the Philippine Population. Released July 2022. Senior citizens (aged 60+) recorded at approximately 10.8 million representing about 10 percent of the national household population.

² Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Life Tables of the Philippines 2020–2021. Published 2023. Life expectancy estimates: 71.7 years for males and 77.4 years for females.

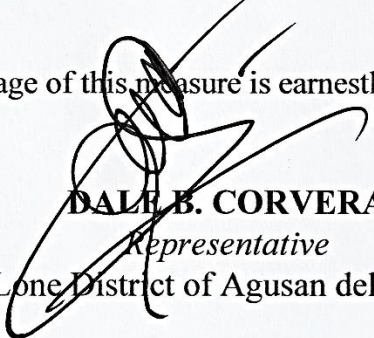
³ Asian Development Bank (ADB). Aging Well in Asia: Policies and Programs Supporting Older Persons. 2022; HelpAge International & COSE Philippines. The Philippine Aging Study. These studies note that only around one-third of Filipino senior citizens receive contributory pensions from SSS or GSIS.

This gap leaves millions reliant on family support, irregular work or limited government assistance. The existing Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens (SPISC) managed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development provides a modest stipend but reaches only a portion of the elderly population leaving many without a reliable income source. Strengthening and expanding pension coverage is therefore a national priority especially in anticipation of a rapidly aging population that is projected to double by 2050 placing increased pressure on families and public systems.⁴

This bill seeks to establish a Universal Social Pension ensuring that all senior citizens receive a guaranteed monthly stipend regardless of indigency status. It provides a phased transition toward full universal coverage mandates periodic review and adjustment of pension amounts based on economic indicators and transfers program administration to the National Commission of Senior Citizens to enhance coordination and service delivery. Through this measure the State reaffirms its duty to promote the dignity, security and well-being of older persons.

This proposed legislation was approved by the House of Representatives on Third Reading in May 2024, reflecting firm legislative support for strengthening the country's social protection system for senior citizens.

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



DALE B. CORVERA
Representative
Lone District of Agusan del Norte

⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). World Population Prospects 2022. The Philippines' elderly population (60+) is projected to double by 2050 driven by demographic transition and increased life expectancy.

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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, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. **Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

“(a) xxx
xxx

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

“(j) **UNIVERSAL Social Pension** refers to [the] **A NON-CONTRIBUTORY MONTHLY** monetary grant from the government to support the daily subsistence and medical needs of senior citizens [which shall not be less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) per month].”

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) xxx
xxx

“(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 their daily subsistence and medical needs [of senior citizens].
- (B) **SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE PREVIOUSLY NOT CONSIDERED AS INDIGENTS 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) AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND, IF NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF THE 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 PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES: PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT. THE IMPLEMENTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

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

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

SEC. 5. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. ***Repealing Clause.*** – Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act Nos. 9257 and 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,” and Republic Act No. 11916 are hereby further amended. All other laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,