

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6549**



Introduced by Honorable EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior Citizens comprise about seven percent (7%) of the Philippine population, with 8.4 million individuals registered in the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) as of July 2025. As people age, they become more exposed to various risks and vulnerabilities, and their corresponding financial impact. Many of our senior citizens, especially those who have worked or are currently working in the informal sector, are not covered by pensions and healthcare benefits, and continue to face financial challenges due to the rising cost of basic goods, health care, medicines, and household utilities such as water and electricity.

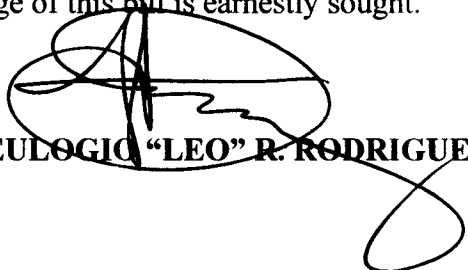
It is a declared policy of the State, under Article II, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution, to promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all. Sections 10 and 11 further declare that the State shall provide social justice in all phases of national development, and that it values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights.

Pursuant to these constitutional provisions, Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, grants a five percent (5%) discount on the monthly utilization of electricity and water of senior citizens. However, with the continuous increase in the cost of living, the present discount proves to be inadequate to extend sufficient financial relief to our elderly.

This measure seeks to increase the senior citizens' discount from five percent (5%) to fifteen percent (15%) and exempt the monthly electricity and water consumption from the value-added tax (VAT). It shall cover all utility providers nationwide to ensure uniform and equitable implementation of this benefit.

This measure reaffirms the State's commitment to uplift the welfare of our elderly, in recognition of their valuable contribution to nation-building. By easing their financial burdens, we uphold the constitutional mandate to protect their dignity and promote social justice.

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


EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE DISCOUNT RATE AND GRANTING VALUE ADDED TAX
EXEMPTION ON THE MONTHLY ELECTRICITY AND WATER CONSUMPTION
OF SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 (c) of Republic Act No. 9994 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizen. –

“(a) xxx

“(b) xxx

“(c) the grant of [a minimum of five percent (5%)] **FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%)** discount [relative to] **ON** the monthly utilization of water and electricity supplied by public utilities: *Provided*, That the individual meters for the foregoing utilities are registered in the name of the senior citizen residing therein: *Provided, further*, That the monthly consumption does not exceed [one] **TWO** hundred kilowatt hours ([100] **200** kWh) of electricity and [thirty] **FIFTY** cubic meters ([30] **50** m³) of water: *Provided, furthermore*, That the **DISCOUNT ON ELECTRICITY SHALL BE GRANTED ON THE INCREMENTAL USAGE ABOVE THE LIFELINE RATE AND WITHIN TWO HUNDRED KILOWATT HOURS (200 KWH), AS THE CASE MAYBE: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE** privilege is granted per household regardless of the number of senior citizens residing therein **AND THE REGISTERED SENIOR CITIZEN CONTINUES TO RESIDE IN THE HOUSEHOLD;**

“xxx”

SEC. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days after the effectivity of this Act, the National Commission of Senior Citizens shall, in consultation with the Energy Regulatory Commission, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Local Water Utilities Administration, and other concerned utility regulatory agencies, as well as

national organizations of senior citizens, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,