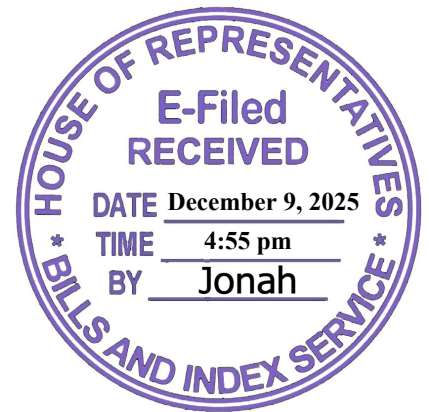




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6725



Introduced by Representative Giselle Mary L. Maceda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide monthly maintenance medication support for senior citizens.

According to Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution it states that “The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.”

Anchored on the constitutional mandate, the State must uphold to social justice by prioritizing health and extending care to one of the most vulnerable sectors of our society, the senior citizens.

By providing monthly maintenance medication support, the financial burden on families is reduced, as most of our senior citizens require to have a consistent and costly monthly medication treatment. Through this measure, it ensures access to medicines is not hindered by financial difficulties.

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


REP. GISELLE MARY L. MACEDA
4th District, Manila City



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HOUSE BILL NO. 6725

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AN ACT
PROVIDING MONTHLY MAINTENANCE MEDICATION SUPPORT
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Act for Senior Citizens”.

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In consonance with Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health and other social services available to all people at affordable cost, giving priority to the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the health and well-being of elderly citizens for their continued meaningful contribution and participation in society. This Act seeks to provide monthly financial assistance to senior citizens, enabling them to access and afford necessary maintenance medications, thereby enhancing their quality of life and health outcomes.

SECTION 3. *Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.* – The government shall provide monthly financial support amounting to One thousand pesos (P1,000) to all senior citizens, hereinafter referred to as "beneficiaries," who are qualified and registered as such under Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010.

SECTION 4. *Eligibility and Registration.* – To qualify for the Monthly

Maintenance Medication Support, a senior citizen must meet the following criteria:

(a) Be a Filipino citizen and a registered senior citizen as defined in Republic Act No. 9994; and

(b) Submit an application to the Department of Health ("DOH") or its designated agency, accompanied by a valid prescription for maintenance medications issued by a licensed medical practitioner within the last six (6) months from the date of application; and

Once approved, beneficiaries shall be issued a Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Card.

SECTION 5. *Use of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.* - The Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall be used exclusively to purchase prescribed maintenance medications, including but not limited to medicines for chronic illnesses, vitamins, and supplements, from all public or private pharmaceutical establishments upon presentment of a prescription validly issued within the last six (6) months from the date of purchase. The Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall not be transferrable to any person other than the person to which the same is provided as named in the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support Card. The unused portion of the support shall not be convertible to cash.

SECTION 6. *Implementation and Coordination.* - The DOH shall be responsible for the implementation of this Act and shall coordinate with other relevant agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development ("DSWD"), to ensure the efficient distribution of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support.

SECTION 7. *Monitoring and Reporting.* - The DOH shall establish a monitoring system to track the utilization of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support and submit an annual report to Congress detailing the effectiveness and impact of the program on the health and well-being of senior citizens.

SECTION 8. *Penalties.* - Any person who commits fraud, misrepresentation, or any form of abuse in the application or use of the Monthly Maintenance Medication Support shall be subject to penalties as prescribed by law.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DOH, in coordination with the DSWD and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, section, or provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 12. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,