



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6908**

Introduced by Representative John Geesnell “Baba” Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant a universal social pension to all senior citizens, further amending for the purpose Republic Act (RA) 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.*”

In recognition of their invaluable contribution to nation-building during their younger and productive years, RA 7432 was enacted as a vital social protection measure for all senior citizens. RA 9994, or the “*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*,” amended RA 7432 and aimed to provide a monthly social pension to indigent senior citizens. However, the rigid indigency requirement severely limits the number of seniors who can qualify for support, even though countless seniors who were excluded by law still struggle with the rising cost of living, mounting medical expenses, and insufficient family support.

All senior citizens, regardless of economic or social status, experience the same consequences of ageing, particularly deteriorating health, physical impairment, and reduced financial resources. Across the country, many senior citizens find themselves without enough pension, insurance, or economic security in their later years. Likewise, those who currently receive a pension from other

social security programs maintain that the amount they receive is inadequate to sustain their needs.

After a lifetime of sacrifice----devoting their resources for their children's education and placing their family's needs above their own----many senior citizens often realize too late that their own well-being has been neglected. Compounding this hardship are recurring issues in the distribution of the social pension where reports of favoritism, political interference, and the pervasive "*kamag-anak*" mentality undermine the fairness and deny rightful beneficiaries the support they deserve.

A universal social pension for all senior citizens in the country guarantees automatic inclusion and eliminates disputes over indigency classification. This measure will also reduce favoritism in selecting the beneficiaries, thereby ensuring fairness and transparency in distribution. A uniform stipend will restore the dignity and self-worth of our beloved seniors and provide a more solid framework to uplift their lives. More importantly, it aligns with international best practices, where universal social pensions reduce poverty among the elderly.

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



JOHN GEESNELL "BABA" YAP



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AN ACT
GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO ALL SENIOR
CITIZENS REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL OR ECONOMIC STATUS,
FURTHER 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," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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

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

(a) Employment

x x x;

(h) Additional Government Assistance

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

~~“[Indigent]~~ **ALL** senior citizens **REGARDLESS OF FINANCIAL STATUS OR ECONOMIC BRACKET**, shall be entitled to a monthly ~~[stipend]~~ **SOCIAL PENSION** amounting to not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens.

“The DSWD shall, ~~[subject to the approval of]~~ **IN CONSULTATION WITH** the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), ~~[in consultation with]~~ **AND** 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: **PROVIDED, THAT THE UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT.**

“THE IMPLEMENTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM THE DSWD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.”

SEC. 2. The universal social pension provided under this Act shall be granted to senior citizens regardless of any other privilege or government assistance they may receive under existing laws, including the cash gift provided under Republic Act No. 10868 or the “*Centenarians Act of 2016*,” as amended.

SEC. 3. The DSWD, and thereafter the NCSC upon full transfer of its functions and programs, with the assistance of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) through the community-based monitoring system, and the local government units, shall prepare, update, and annually validate the official list of senior citizen beneficiaries.

SEC. 4. The universal social pension shall be released either through direct cash payout, direct remittance through the engagement of a service provider duly accredited by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, electronic transfer, or other modes of disbursement, whichever is more practical and acceptable to the beneficiary, ensuring its release in the most expeditious and efficient manner.

Sec. 5. Any transaction or service fee arising from the engagement of a service provider, electronic transfer, or other modes of disbursement with service fees for the release of the universal social pension to senior citizens shall not be charged against the senior citizens.

SEC. 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Budget and Management and the Chairperson of the National Commission of Senior Citizens, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 7. The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,