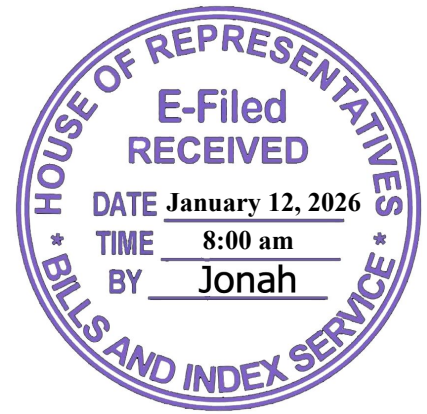


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7067



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Philippine Constitution, under Article XV, Section 4, mandates that "it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social security for them." Furthermore, Article XIII, Section 11 emphasizes the priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.

As the Philippine population ages, a significant number of our senior citizens face the harsh reality of "medical poverty." While the Expanded Senior Citizens Act (R.A. 9994) provides for discounts on medicines, many indigent and lower-middle-class seniors still cannot afford the remaining cost of life-saving maintenance drugs. Chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases require daily medication that often consumes a majority of their meager pensions or social dividends.

Moreover, preventive health through vitamins and food supplements is essential to bolster the immune systems of the elderly, reducing the frequency of hospitalizations and the overall burden on the public healthcare system.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a Monthly Health Support Program that provides a standardized set of maintenance medicines, vitamins, and supplements directly to senior citizens through their respective local health centers. By shifting from a discount-based model to a direct-provision model for the most essential health needs, we ensure that no Filipino senior is forced to choose between a meal and their medicine.

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


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7067

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT PROVIDING MONTHLY SUPPORT TO SENIOR CITIZENS OF
PRESCRIBED MAINTENANCE MEDICINES, FOOD SUPPLEMENTS, AND
VITAMINS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Senior Citizens' Monthly Medicine and Wellness Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The State shall provide integrated and comprehensive health development for the elderly to ensure they remain productive and dignified members of society.

SEC. 3. *The Monthly Health Support Program.* - There is hereby established a program under the Department of Health (DOH) in coordination with Local Government Units (LGUs) and the National Commission of Senior Citizens to provide a One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) worth of the following to all registered senior citizens:

- Maintenance Medicines: Full monthly supply of doctor-prescribed drugs for hypertension, diabetes, high cholesterol, and other chronic ailments as identified by the DOH.
- Vitamins: Monthly supply of Vitamin C, Zinc, Vitamin D, and B-Complex.
- Food Supplements: Specific supplements necessary for bone health and immune support as determined by geriatric specialists.

SEC 4. *Implementation Mechanism.* -

Registration: Senior citizens must be registered with the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) in their LGU.

Distribution: Distribution shall be managed through the Barangay Health Centers or designated local government pharmacies (Botika ng Bayan).

Prescription Requirement: A valid prescription from a public or private physician, updated every six (6) months, shall be required to avail of maintenance medicines.

SEC. 5. *Prioritization* - While the goal is universal coverage, the DOH shall prioritize indigent senior citizens and those with no existing pension or insurance coverage during the first two (2) years of implementation.

SEC. 6. *Lead Agency.* - The Department of Health (DOH) shall be the lead implementing agency, tasked with the procurement of high-quality generic medicines and supplements to maximize the reach of the budget.

SEC. 7. *Appropriation* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA)..

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,