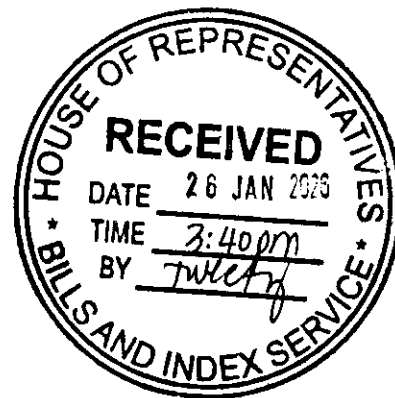


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7321



Introduced by Honorable EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

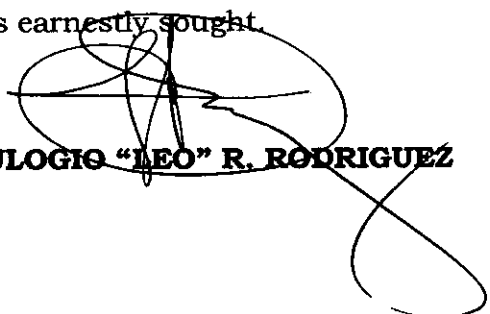
Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, otherwise known as "An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges, and for Other Purposes," embodies the State's policy of recognizing the vital role of senior citizens in nation building while ensuring their welfare, dignity, and social protection. Among the benefits extended to indigent senior citizens are the provision of a monthly stipend and other forms of benefits intended to help meet their basic and essential needs.

Despite the availability of these benefits, challenges in their delivery persist. Many senior citizens continue to encounter significant barriers in accessing assistance, including long travel distances, physical and mobility limitations, long queues during payouts, and limited access to banking, electronic payment facilities, or other digital platforms. These challenges are particularly more pronounced among indigent senior citizens residing in rural, remote, and geographically isolated areas, thereby undermining the timeliness, effectiveness, and overall impact of government assistance programs.

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen RA No. 7432, as amended, by institutionalizing direct delivery to the beneficiary's residence as the priority mode of providing monthly stipends and other cash and non-cash benefits, including but not limited to food packs, medical supplies, hygiene kits, assistive devices, and other essential items. This bill recognizes that direct delivery to their residences improves access to government assistance while upholding the dignity and well-being of senior citizens by minimizing physical, financial, and logistical burdens associated with benefit collection.

Ultimately, this necessary amendment reinforces the State's constitutional mandate to protect senior citizens by enhancing accessibility, inclusivity, and responsiveness of government assistance, reducing undue burdens on beneficiaries, and ensuring that public resources reach senior citizens fully and in a timely manner.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
7321
HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by Honorable EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

AN ACT

PRIORITIZING DIRECT DELIVERY OF STIPENDS AND OTHER CASH AND NON-CASH BENEFITS TO SENIOR CITIZEN BENEFICIARIES, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby inserted between Sections 5 and 6 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, otherwise known as "An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges, and for Other Purposes," as amended, a new section to be known as Section 5-A to read as follows:

SECTION 5-A. FORM AND MANNER OF DELIVERY OF BENEFITS. - THE MONTHLY STIPEND AND OTHER CASH AND NON-CASH BENEFITS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO FOOD PACKS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, HYGIENE KITS, ASSISTIVE DEVICES, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ITEMS, DUE TO SENIOR CITIZEN BENEFICIARIES SHALL, AS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO THE BENEFICIARY'S RESIDENCE.

CASH BENEFITS SHALL, AS A GENERAL RULE, BE RELEASED THROUGH DIRECT CASH DELIVERY TO THE BENEFICIARY'S RESIDENCE. IN CASES WHERE CASH DELIVERY IS IMPRACTICAL OR NOT FEASIBLE, CASH BENEFITS MAY BE RELEASED THROUGH DIRECT REMITTANCE THROUGH THE ENGAGEMENT OF A SERVICE PROVIDER DULY ACCREDITED BY THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, ELECTRONIC TRANSFER, OR OTHER MODES OF DELIVERY, WHICHEVER IS MORE PRACTICAL AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE BENEFICIARY, ENSURING ITS RELEASE IN THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS AND EFFICIENT MANNER.

NON-CASH BENEFITS SHALL LIKEWISE BE DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO THE BENEFICIARY'S RESIDENCE WHENEVER PRACTICABLE, IN A TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE MANNER.

SEC. 2. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Commission of Senior Citizens shall, in

consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Budget and Management and other concerned government agencies, as well as nongovernment organizations and people's organizations of senior citizens duly accredited by the DSWD, promulgate the necessary amendments to the existing rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 3. Repealing Clause. – Section 3 of RA No. 7432, as amended by RA No. 11916, insofar as the form and manner of payment of monthly stipends is concerned is hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

All other laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,