

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7680



Introduced by: HON. BAMBI B. EMANO

**AN ACT ALLOWING THE DIGITAL PRESENTATION OF THE OFFICE
FOR SENIOR CITIZEN AFFAIRS (OSCA) IDENTIFICATION CARD
WHEN THE PHYSICAL ID IS FORGOTTEN, AMENDING SECTION 4 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED
SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XV, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “the family has the duty to care for its elderly members, but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.” In line with this constitutional mandate, Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, was enacted to further promote the welfare of senior citizens by granting them various privileges, discounts, and exemptions.

Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9994 governs the proof of entitlement required for senior citizens to avail of these privileges. It presently allows the presentation of the following documents:

- (1) an identification card issued by the Office of the Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA) of the place where the senior citizen resides: Provided, That the identification card issued by the particular OSCA shall be honored nationwide;*
- (2) the passport of the senior citizen concerned; and*
- (3) other documents that establish that the senior citizen is a citizen of the Republic and is at least sixty (60) years of age as further provided in the implementing rules and regulations.*

This bill seeks to amend Section 4 by adding a new paragraph (4), which shall expressly allow the digital presentation of the OSCA Identification Card as valid proof of entitlement, particularly in instances when the physical card is forgotten.

Despite the law’s clear intent to provide flexibility in the proof of entitlement, many senior citizens continue to encounter difficulties in actual implementation. Numerous establishments refuse to honor senior citizen privileges when the physical OSCA ID is not presented, even if a photograph or digital copy of the same ID is

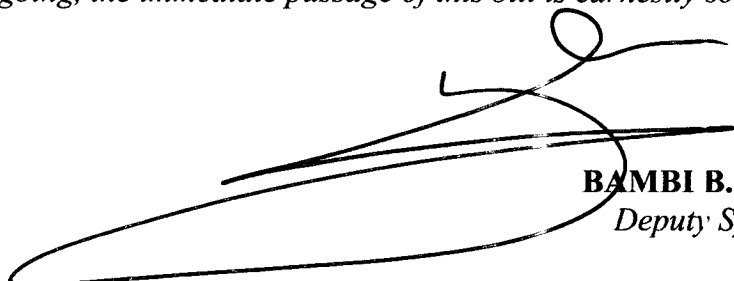
shown through a mobile phone. This practice results in the arbitrary denial of benefits granted by law, notwithstanding the recognition of “other documents” as acceptable proof under Republic Act No. 9994.

In an increasingly digital society, reliance solely on physical identification cards no longer reflects present realities. Many government-issued credentials are now available in electronic or digital form. However, the absence of an explicit statutory provision authorizing the digital or mobile presentation of the OSCA ID has led to inconsistent interpretation by establishments and has caused unnecessary inconvenience and hardship to senior citizens.

The proposed amendment is consistent with settled jurisprudence holding that senior citizen benefit provisions must be construed liberally in favor of senior citizens (Republic v. Pryce Corporation, Inc., G.R. No. 243133), and that administrative regulations and their implementation must conform to the intent and letter of the statute they seek to enforce (Soliman v. Santos, G.R. No. 202417). By expressly recognizing the digital presentation of the OSCA ID, the bill prevents overly restrictive interpretations under the Implementing Rules and Regulations that are not found in the law itself.

Ultimately, this measure seeks to operationalize and clarify the proof-of-entitlement provisions under Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9994, reduce arbitrary refusals by establishments, and ensure that senior citizens are able to enjoy the full measure of benefits granted to them by law with dignity, convenience, and fairness.

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



BAMBI B. EMANO
Deputy Speaker

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*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 “**Digital OSCA
Identification Act.**”

SEC. 2. Amendment of Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9994. Section 4 of Republic
Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, is
hereby amended by adding a new paragraph (4) to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Privileges for Senior Citizens. –

In the availment of the privileges mentioned above, the senior citizen, or his or her
duly authorized representative, may submit as proof of entitlement any of the
following:

- (1) An identification card issued by the Office for Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA) of
the place where the senior citizen resides: Provided, That the identification card
issued by the particular OSCA shall be honored nationwide;
- (2) The passport of the senior citizen concerned;
- (3) Other documents establishing that the senior citizen is a citizen of the Republic
of the Philippines and is at least sixty (60) years of age, as further provided in the
Implementing Rules and Regulations; and
- (4) The digital or electronic presentation of a valid OSCA-issued Senior Citizen
Identification Card, including its image or electronic copy displayed through a
mobile phone or similar electronic device, particularly in cases where the physical
identification card is forgotten.

SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Office for Senior Citizen Affairs (OSCA), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 4. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.