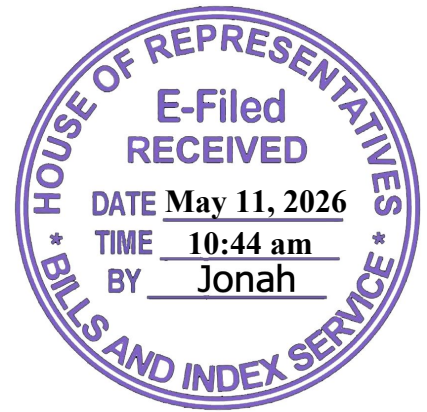


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9170**



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
GRANTING BENEFITS TO FILIPINO SEPTUAGENARIANS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11982, WHICH AMENDED REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016,” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIII, Section 11, and Article XV, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution declare the State’s duty to care for its elderly citizens by providing for and prioritizing their needs in health and social security programs.

Republic Act No. 10868, otherwise known as the “Centenarians Act of 2016,” was enacted on June 23, 2016, to provide all Filipinos who reach the age of 100 years old a letter of felicitation from the President and a gift in the amount of P100,000.00 in honor of the centenarian’s longevity.

On February 26, 2024, the “Centenarians Act of 2016” was amended by Republic Act No. 11982 to grant benefits, in the form of cash gifts of P10,000.00, to all Filipinos upon reaching the ages of 80, 85, 90, and 95. The amendatory bill was proposed and enacted in consideration of the reality that most Filipinos do not reach the age of 100 years old, and that the number of Filipinos who reach the ages of 80, 85, 90, and 95 decreases as their ages progress.

According to a report by the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) published in February 2021,¹ Filipinos have a life expectancy of 71 years, while recent World Bank data puts the average Filipino life expectancy at 70 years, as of 2024.²

¹ Ulep, V.G., Uy, J., Siy Van, V.T., & Bagas, J. (February 2021). An Assessment of National-Level Governance of the Philippines’ Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law: Trends and Ways Forward. Discussion Paper Series No. 2021-09. Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Retrieved from <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps2109.pdf>.

² World Bank Group. Life expectancy at birth, total (years) – Philippines. Retrieved from <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.IN?locations=PH>.

However, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), the average Filipino life expectancy as of 2021 is 66.4 years old in total, with 69.9 years old for females and 63.4 for males.³

This means that while Republic Act Nos. 10868 and 11982 rightfully seek to honor the Filipino elderly who reach the milestone ages of 80, 85, 90, 95, and 100 by providing them with cash benefits, most Filipinos do not live long enough to receive these benefits. Even when they do, they are often no longer able to enjoy the benefits themselves.

As such, this bill seeks to further expand the coverage of the aforementioned laws honoring octogenarians, nonagenarians, and centenarians by including septuagenarians, or Filipinos aged 70 and 75, as recipients of cash benefits. This bill also increases the amount of benefits received by Filipinos upon reaching the ages of 80 and 90, creating a gradual progression in the amount starting from age 70 to age 100.

By doing so, this bill seeks not only to honor the Filipino elderly by providing cash incentives for reaching milestone years, but also to provide them with the financial support they increasingly need as their capacity for work decreases and health complications increase with age.

In the 20th Congress, similar bills were filed by Representatives Loreto Amante and JC Abalos. This bill proposes a unique set of benefits for Filipino Septuagenarians, Octogenarians, and Nonagenarians.

Early approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



LEILA M. DE LIMA

³ World Health Organization. Health Data Overview for the Republic of the Philippines. WHO Data. Retrieved from <https://data.who.int/countries/608>.

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

1 SECTION. 1. *Section 1 of Republic Act No. 11982, otherwise known as “An Act*
2 *Granting Benefits to Filipino Octogenarians and Nonagenarians, Amending for the*
3 *Purpose Republic Act No. 10868, otherwise known as the ‘Centenarians Act of 2016,’*
4 *and Appropriating Funds Therefor,” is hereby amended to read as follows:*

5
6 “Section 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10868, otherwise known as the
7 ‘Centenarians Act of 2016,’ is hereby amended to read as follows:

8
9 Section 2. Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift. - All Filipinos, whether residing
10 in the Philippines or abroad, upon reaching the age of one hundred (100) years
11 old, shall receive a cash gift of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)
12 and a letter of felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating
13 the celebrant for his or her longevity.

14
15 **ALL FILIPINOS, WHETHER RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES OR ABROAD,**
16 **UPON THE AGE OF SEVENTY (70) YEARS OLD, SHALL RECEIVE A**
17 **CASH GIFT OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000.00). UPON**
18 **REACHING THE AGE OF EIGHTY (80) YEARS OLD, THEY SHALL**
19 **RECEIVE A CASH GIFT OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00).**
20 **UPON REACHING THE AGE OF NINETY (90) YEARS OLD, THEY SHALL**
21 **RECEIVE A CASH GIFT OF SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS**
22 **(P75,000.00).**

23 All Filipinos, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, upon reaching the
24 ages of **SEVENTY-FIVE (75)**, [~~eighty (80),~~] eighty-five (85), [~~ninety (90),~~] and
25 ninety-five (95), shall each receive a cash gift of Ten thousand pesos
26 (P10,000.00).
27

28
29 The grantees under this section shall be eligible to receive the cash gift
30 within one (1) year from reaching the ages of **SEVENTY (70)**, **SEVENTY-FIVE**
31 **(75)**, eighty (80), eighty-five (85), ninety (90), ninety-five (95) and one hundred
32 (100)."
33

34 SEC. 2. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to implement the provisions
35 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
36

37 SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act is declared
38 invalid or unconstitutional, the sections or provisions not affected thereby shall
39 continue to be in full force and effect.
40

41 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive and
42 administrative orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
43 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
44 accordingly.
45

46 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
47 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
48 Philippines.

Approved,