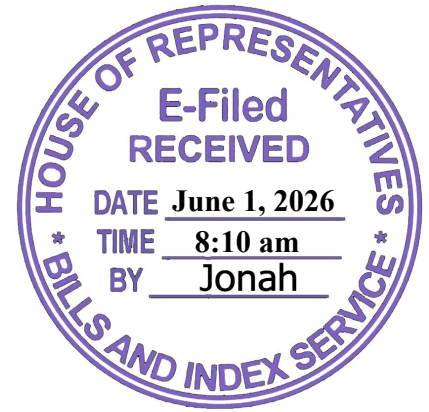


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9560



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution mandates the State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development and to give priority to the needs of the elderly through programs on social security and social assistance.

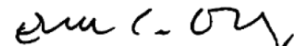
Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9994 or the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010,” recognizes the invaluable contribution of senior citizens to nation-building by granting them various benefits and privileges aimed at promoting their welfare and improving their quality of life. Despite these measures, many elderly Filipinos continue to face economic hardship brought about by rising costs of living, inflation, and limited sources of income.

In several local government units, birthday cash incentives are already being granted to senior citizens as a form of recognition and support. However, the amount and availability of these benefits vary widely across the country, resulting in unequal treatment among senior citizens.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a minimum birthday cash benefit of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for all qualified senior citizens nationwide. The proposed measure likewise ensures that such benefit shall be released in a timely and accessible manner, free from transaction or service charges, and without prejudice to other benefits already granted under existing laws.

While several local government units already provide birthday incentives to senior citizens through local ordinances, there is presently no national law institutionalizing a uniform minimum birthday cash benefit for senior citizens nationwide.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **9560**

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

**“AN ACT
GRANTING AN ADDITIONAL BIRTHDAY CASH BENEFIT
TO SENIOR CITIZENS, 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 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. -

The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

"(a) the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of the following goods and services from all establishments, for the exclusive use and enjoyment or availment of the senior citizen "

xxx

(M) BIRTHDAY CASH BENEFIT OF A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00), TO BE RELEASED WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S DATE OF BIRTH. SUCH AMOUNT SHALL BE ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION EVERY THREE (3) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES TO BE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS."

SECTION 2. The birthday cash benefit 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 by Republic Act No. 11982: Provided, That local government units (LGUs) which, prior to the effectivity of this Act, grant a birthday cash

benefit to senior citizens in an amount less than Five Hundred Pesos (₱500.00) shall adjust such benefit to conform with the minimum amount prescribed herein: Provided, further, That no diminution thereof shall be allowed in cases where the existing birthday cash benefit granted by the LGUs exceeds Five Hundred Pesos (₱500.00).

SECTION 3. The birthday cash benefit granted under this Act shall be released either through direct cash payout, direct remittance through accredited or duly authorized payment service providers supervised 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.

A birthday cash benefit not claimed within one (1) year from the date it became due shall remain available for payment upon validation of entitlement in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations

SECTION 4. 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 birthday cash benefit to senior citizens shall not be charged against the senior citizen beneficiary.

SECTION 5. The National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), local government units, and concerned agencies may share relevant information, subject to Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, for purposes of validating eligibility and preventing duplication of benefits.

SECTION 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the NCSC, in coordination with the DILG, the Department of Budget and Management, (DBM) and other concerned agencies shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. The funds necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the annual appropriations of the local government unit where the senior citizen is registered.

Only senior citizens duly registered with the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) of their city or municipality shall be entitled to the birthday cash benefit under this Act.

SECTION 8. If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force or effect.

SECTION 9. 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.

SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,