

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH (20TH) CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 9895



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

AN ACT
ELIMINATING THE PURCHASE BOOKLET REQUIREMENT FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SENIOR CITIZENS ACT", AND
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES",
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enactment of Republic Act No. 7432 (The Senior Citizens Act) and Republic Act No. 7277 (The Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities), alongside their subsequent amendments, stands as a testament to the State's commitment to social justice and the welfare of our vulnerable sectors. These laws granted vital privileges, including twenty percent (20%) discounts and value-added tax (VAT) exemptions on essential goods, medicines, and medical supplies.

However, the administrative implementation of these benefits has inadvertently created an undue burden. Under current guidelines, Senior Citizens and PWDs are required to present a physical "Purchase Booklet" alongside their government-issued identification cards to avail of discounts on medicines and basic necessities.

In practice, this dual-document requirement has become an administrative barrier. Booklets are easily misplaced, damaged, or prematurely filled, leading to the outright denial of statutory benefits at the point of sale. Furthermore, in an increasingly digital economy where e-commerce and telemedicine are becoming the norm, requiring a physical booklet to be manually signed or stamped by a cashier is an archaic practice that defeats the purpose of the law.

With the implementation of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) and the continuous digitization of government records, the reliance

on paper booklets is no longer justifiable. Data tracking for regulatory compliance and the prevention of abuse can be seamlessly achieved through digital logs, centralized databases, and unified ID verification.

This bill seeks to completely remove the purchase booklet requirement. By establishing that a valid Senior Citizen or PWD identification card—or the PhilSys Identification Card—is sufficient to avail of all legal discounts, we eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy, protect the dignity of our elders and uniquely-abled citizens, and ensure that social benefits are delivered efficiently and without delay.

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



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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 “Ease of Availing Benefits for Seniors and PWDs Act.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to promote a just and dynamic social order that ensures the prosperity and independence of the nation and frees the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services. Towards this end, the State shall optimize the delivery of statutory benefits, privileges, and discounts to Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) by eliminating unnecessary administrative barriers, simplifying commercial transactions, and leveraging digital verification systems.

SECTION 3. *Abolition of the Purchase Booklet Requirement.* – The requirement of a physical purchase booklet, national health program book, or any supplementary paper-based logbook for the purchase of medicines, medical supplies, dietary supplements, and basic necessities and prime commodities (BNPCs) by Senior Citizens and PWDs is hereby abolished.

No establishment, pharmacy, drug store, or commercial entity shall deny the statutory twenty percent (20%) discount, five percent (5%) special discount, or value-added tax (VAT) exemption to any qualified beneficiary on the sole ground of non-presentation or absence of a purchase booklet.

SECTION 4. *Sufficiency of Identification.* – For the purpose of availing the discounts and privileges granted under existing laws, the presentation of any of the following valid documents shall be deemed sufficient proof of eligibility:

1. A valid Identification Card issued by the Office for Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) of the city or municipality;
2. A valid Identification Card issued by the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) or the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA); or
3. The Philippine Identification (PhilSys ID) or its digital alternative issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), indicating the beneficiary's age or disability status.

SECTION 5. *Transition to Digital Tracking and Verification.* – Establishments and commercial entities are hereby mandated to transition to digital record-keeping systems to track and monitor the purchases of essential goods and medicines by beneficiaries, ensuring compliance with prescribed limits under the law.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), shall develop a unified, secure, and privacy-compliant digital verification platform within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act to assist establishments in preventing abuse or double-claiming of benefits.

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* – Any person, natural or juridical, who refuses to honor the valid identification cards specified in Section 4, or who insists on the presentation of a purchase booklet as a condition for granting statutory discounts and exemptions, shall be subject to the penalties provided under Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by R.A. No. 9994, and Section 46 of Republic Act No. 7277, as amended by R.A. No. 10754.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DSWD, DOH, DTI, DICT, NCDA, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, particularly provisions in the IRRs of R.A. 7432, as amended by R.A. No. 9994, and R.A. 7277, as amended by R.A. No. 10754, and relevant joint administrative orders requiring the use of purchase booklets, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. *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,