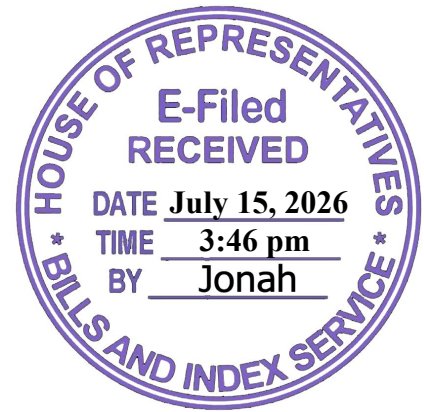


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **10089**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to further strengthen Republic Act (RA) No. 9994, otherwise known as the “*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*”. It expands health and wellness programs provided to senior citizens, and provides for the inclusion of digital inclusion programs to promote their digital literacy.

The number of senior citizens in the country continue to grow as life expectancy improves and demographic trends point toward an aging population. The Philippine Statistics Authority reported that Filipinos aged sixty (60) and above account for more than nine percent (9.6%) of the country’s one hundred and thirteen million (113.7) million population. While this remains below the ten percent (10%) threshold used by World Bank to define an aging society, the country’s senior citizen population is projected to double by 2035-2040¹. This highlights the need to strengthen programs that promote healthy, active, and dignified aging.

This measure expands the government assistance provided to our senior citizens by requiring annual preventive health check-ups, community-based wellness and rehabilitation services, home and mobile healthcare for vulnerable seniors, and expanded access to telemedicine. It also institutionalizes nationwide digital literacy and inclusion programs to equip our elderly with the knowledge and skills necessary to safely access digital technologies and government services to close the digital divide once and for all.

More than strengthening health, wellness, and digital inclusion programs extended to our senior citizens for them to live healthier, safer, and more productive lives in a digital society, this vital piece of legislation reinforces the State’s commitment to safeguard the welfare, dignity, and well-being of our senior citizens.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is immediately sought.


HON. ERIC G. YAP

¹ MOAJE, Marita (2026). *Nat’l discussion on aging timely as senior population hits 11M*. Philippine News Agency. Accessed from https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1268289?__cf_chl_f_tk=kParU82MQnDSNQK8Ogejiy_GLIwvR_i2OwJk.eEAWU-1783309932-1.0.1.1-Z5ZjqWjJmWEHuU.JqkXScGx55NNvankUOqeJNhRP360. Accessed on 6 July 2026.

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. **10089**

Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

AN ACT
EXPANDING HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND DIGITAL INCLUSION PROGRAMS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010", AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 5, sub-paragraph (c) of Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*", as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* - The **NATIONAL** government shall provide the following assistance **TO SENIOR CITIZENS**:

"(a) x x x

"(b) x x x

"(c) Health

"The DOH, in **CLOSE** coordination with **THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD), the NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC), AND** local government units (LGUs), [NGOs and POs for senior citizens,] shall institute **AND IMPLEMENT** a **COMPREHENSIVE** national health program and [shall] provide [an] integrated health [service] **SERVICES** for senior citizens, **WHICH SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:** [It shall train community-based health workers among senior citizens and health personnel to specialize in the geriatric care and health problems of senior citizens.]

"(1) **THE ESTABLISHMENT AND NATIONWIDE PROVISION OF FREE AND COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL PREVENTIVE HEALTH CHECK-UPS AND SCREENINGS FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS. THESE PROGRAMS SHALL INCLUDE THOROUGH PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS,**

ESSENTIAL LABORATORY DIAGNOSTICS, MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS, COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE, AND ALL RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATIONS;

“(2) THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF ACCESSIBLE COMMUNITY-BASED WELLNESS AND FITNESS PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR SENIOR CITIZENS INCLUDING SENIOR-FRIENDLY GYMS, REGULAR EXERCISE CLASSES TAILORED TO THEIR NEEDS, COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION AND THERAPY SERVICES, AND EVIDENCE-BASED NUTRITION PROGRAMS;

“(3) THE PROVISION OF MOBILE AND HOME-BASED HEALTH SERVICES FOR INDIGENT, BEDRIDDEN, AND GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED SENIOR CITIZENS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO NECESSARY MEDICAL CARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES;

“(4) THE FACILITATION OF SUBSIDIZED ACCESS TO TELEMEDICINE CONSULTATIONS, ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE MEDICINES, AND APPROPRIATE ASSISTIVE HEALTH DEVICES SUCH AS HEARING AIDS, WHEELCHAIRS, AND PROSTHETIC LIMBS, AND SIMILAR HEALTH AIDS BASED ON MEDICAL NECESSITY;

“(5) THE TRAINING OF COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH WORKERS AND HEALTH PERSONNEL SPECIALIZING IN GERIATRIC CARE AND THE SPECIFIC HEALTH PROBLEMS OF SENIOR CITIZENS;

“(6) THE HARMONIZATION OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS WITH RELEVANT NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMS OF THE DOH AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES; AND

“(7) THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SENIOR CITIZENS’ WARD IN EVERY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE IN NEED OF HOSPITAL CONFINEMENT DUE TO THEIR HEALTH CONDITIONS: *PROVIDED*, THAT SUCH GERIATRIC WARD MAY BE USED FOR EMERGENCY PURPOSES, AFTER WHICH IT SHALL REVERT TO ITS ORIGINAL FUNCTION.

SEC. 2. There is hereby inserted a new sub-paragraph (i) after Section 5, sub-paragraph(h) of the same Act, as amended, to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. x x x

“(I) DIGITAL LITERACY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS

“THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (DICT), IN COORDINATION WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) AND RELEVANT NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, SHALL ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL LITERACY AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS TAILORED FOR SENIOR CITIZENS. THESE PROGRAMS SHALL AIM TO PROVIDE SENIOR CITIZENS WITH THE NECESSARY TOOLS AND SKILLS TO NAVIGATE THE DIGITAL WORLD, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BASIC COMPUTER AND INTERNET USAGE, ONLINE COMMUNICATION PLATFORMS, ACCESSING DIGITAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS, AND COMBATING ONLINE MISINFORMATION.

“THE DICT SHALL ALLOCATE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODULES, TRAINING OF FACILITATORS, PROVISION OF ACCESSIBLE TRAINING VENUES, AND PROCUREMENT OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT TO ENSURE THE EFFECTIVE AND WIDESPREAD IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE PROGRAMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SUCH FUNDS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF THE DICT.”

SEC. 3. Section 10 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 10. Appropriations. – The FUNDS necessary [appropriations] for the [operation and maintenance of the OSCA shall be appropriated and approved by the LGUs concerned. For national government agencies, the requirements to implement the provisions] **INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION** *of this Act shall be included in [their respective budgets: *Provided*, That the funds to be used for the national health program and for the vaccination of senior citizens in the first year of implementation shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DOH and thereafter, as a line item under the DOH budget in] the [subsequent] General Appropriations Act (GAA): *Provided, further*, That the monthly social pension for indigent senior citizens in the first year of implementation shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD and] **FOR THE FISCAL YEAR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ITS ENACTMENT INTO LAW. [t]Thereafter, SUCH SUMS as [a line item under the DSWD budget in the subsequent GAA] MAY BE NECESSARY FOR ITS CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION SHALL BE ANNUALLY APPROPRIATED.***

“IN ADDITION TO THE FUNDS APPROPRIATED UNDER THE GAA, THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE EXPLORED AS SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT:

“(A) A PORTION OF THE INCREMENTAL REVENUES GENERATED UNDER THE SIN TAX REFORM LAW, SUBJECT TO EXISTING EARMARKING PROVISIONS AND SUCH

ALLOCATION AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF) AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH);

“(B) A PORTION OF THE NET REVENUES OF THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR); AND

“(C) A PORTION OF THE CHARITY FUND OR NET RECEIPTS OF THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO).”

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOH, DSWD, DICT, and NCSC, in consultation with LGUs, relevant nongovernmental organizations, and other key stakeholders, shall jointly promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,