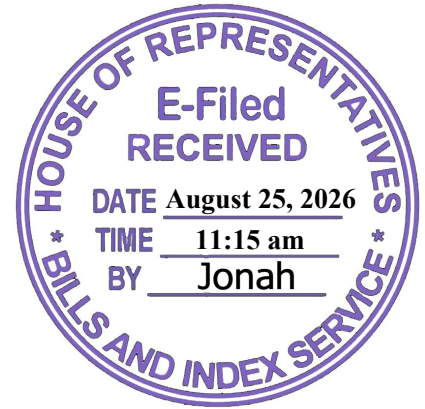


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10932

Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR FAIR TREATMENT OF CERTAIN SENIOR CITIZEN PENSIONERS BY GRANTING ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CASH GIFT AND PENSION INCREASE TO PENSIONERS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM WHO ARE BENEFICIARIES OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7699, “AN ACT INSTITUTING LIMITED PORTABILITY SCHEME IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY INSURANCE SYSTEMS BY TOTALIZING THE WORKERS’ CREDITABLE SERVICES OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN EACH OF THE SYSTEMS”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks for a fair treatment to our senior citizen pensioners who are beneficiaries of Republic Act No. 7699, “An Act Instituting Limited Portability Scheme in the Social Security Insurance Systems by Totalizing the Workers’ Creditable Services or Contributions in each of the Systems” but are not deemed qualified, based on existing implementing rules and regulations and other issuances of the SSS and GSIS Boards, to receive some of the benefits given to regular pensioners, specifically the annual Christmas cash gift and right to pension increase.

While RA 7699 appears to be a special law, an accommodation to individual workers who have not “saved enough” in either system, it is necessary to remind the managers of our social security agencies that the law they are implementing and the funds that they are zealously guarding were created to fulfil the State’s obligation to protect its people in times of financial want, especially when they are no longer considered employable. R.A. No. 7699 provides the formula to enable workers to benefit from the fruits of their savings or contributions in both systems.

Depriving Portability Law pensioners of the benefits given to regular old-age pensioners of both systems is discriminatory and anathema to current trends in social legislation that value and honor the contributions of our senior citizens to society during their productive years.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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

SECTION 1. Provisions of any general or special law or rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding, pensioners of the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) who are beneficiaries of Republic Act No. 7699, “An Act Instituting Limited Portability Scheme in the Social Security Insurance Systems by Totalizing the Workers’ Creditable Services or Contributions in each of the Systems” shall be entitled to receive a Christmas cash gift from the GSIS, 13th month pension from the SSS, and pension increases similar to old-age pensioners of both systems.

SECTION 2. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the SSS and the GSIS, in consultation with the Department of Finance and accredited organizations of pensioners of the SSS and GSIS shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act: *Provided, That any conflict in the interpretation of the law and the implementing rules and regulations shall be resolved in favor of the pensioners.*

SECTION 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed to diminish or reduce the benefits being enjoyed by pensioners under R.A. No. 7699 arising from existing laws, issuances, or SSS and GSIS Board Resolutions.

SECTION 4. All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, SSS and GSIS Board resolutions, and rules and regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,