

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



13 JUL 10 A9:53

SENATE

S. No. 712

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

Explanatory Note

The Philippines is known as a nation that holds in high regard the welfare of the elderly. We can proudly claim that our society gives premium on ensuring that senior members of our community are respected, taken cared of, and more importantly, living in comfort and security.

In line with this, the Congress has enacted various legislations benefiting our senior citizens. One of which, is Republic Act No. 9994, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 which provides an array of benefits, privileges and assistance for our esteemed senior citizens.

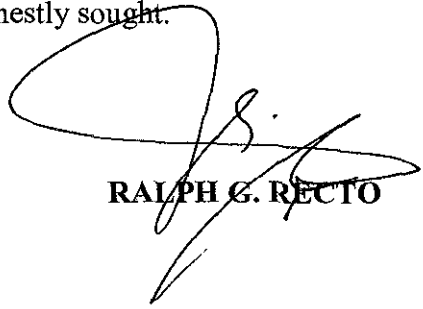
The said law, grants our senior citizens a twenty-percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value -added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of some goods and services; death benefit assistance; educational assistance; free medical and dental services; and exemption from training fees for socioeconomic programs, among others. The same law also grants indigent senior citizens additional privileges such as free vaccines, social pension and mandatory Philhealth coverage.

The mandatory Philhealth coverage for indigent senior citizens enables them to avail of health services, free from "out-of-pocket" expenses. However, while this provision is meritorious, it is limited only to indigent senior citizens, most of whom are already under the *indigent or sponsored membership* of Philhealth. Senior citizens who are not considered as indigents but who cannot afford to enroll themselves under the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP), are then deprived of the Philhealth benefits.

This bill proposes to remove the limitation on the mandatory Philhealth coverage for senior citizens. Under this bill, all senior citizens, whether indigent or not, shall be enrolled under Philhealth. The funds necessary to ensure their Philhealth coverage shall be sourced from the National Health Insurance Fund.

This measure will enable all our senior citizens to feel more secure during the remaining years of their lives because of the guarantee that they will have the access to medical and health services when need arises.

It is in this regard that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RALPH G. RECTO



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL
SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 5, sub-paragraph h(2) of Republic Act No. 7432, as
2 amended is hereby further amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* – The government shall provide the
4 following:

5 "xxx

6 "(h) Additional Government Assistance

7 "(1) xxx

8 "(2) Mandatory Philhealth Coverage

9 "All [indigent] senior citizens shall be covered by the national
10 health insurance program of Philhealth. **FUNDS**
11 **NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE ENROLLMENT OF**
12 **ALL SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE SOURCED FROM**
13 **THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE FUND OF**
14 **PHILHEALTH** [The LGUs where the indigent senior citizen
15 resides shall allocate the necessary funds to ensure the
16 enrollment of their indigent senior citizens], in accordance
17 with pertinent laws and regulations.

18 "(3) xxx.

1 **Sec. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed,
3 amended or modified accordingly.

4 **Sec. 3. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,