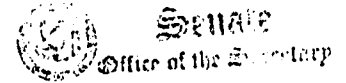


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Second Regular Session }



SENATE

'21 MAY 27 P1:51

S.B. NO. 2243

RECEIVED BY: _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

**AN ACT
INCREASING THE SOCIAL PENSION OF INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432 ENTITLED, 'AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE
THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING,
GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES,' AS AMENDED**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the needs of its citizens, most especially the vulnerable sector, is being met to afford them a decent quality of life.

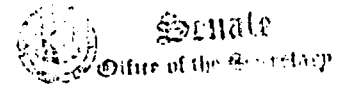
In 2019, there are 3,796,791 indigent senior citizens all over the country. These are 3,796,791 individuals who are struggling to meet with their needs for basic commodities and healthcare due to lack of permanent source of income since they can no longer work fully and seek gainful employment.

The numerous benefits and privileges for senior citizens at present in the country can only be availed consistently from merchants in malls and big service providers, which our indigent senior citizens cannot afford to go to due to higher prices of goods in these establishments. These discounts are mostly not available in the neighborhood stores and in their local wet markets. Thus, the rising cost of living and the added financial burden brought about by the present pandemic has taken a toll on our indigent senior citizens.

To address their pressing needs, this bill seeks to provide an additional financial assistance to indigent senior citizens. This is in the form of a monthly stipend amounting to an additional Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) from the current social pension, for a total of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). This will aid our indigent senior citizens defray the cost of daily subsistence and other medical needs.

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


VICENTE C. SOTTO III



SENATE

'21 MAY 27 P1:51

S.B. NO. 2243

RECEIVED BY _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

AN ACT
INCREASING THE SOCIAL PENSION OF INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432 ENTITLED, 'AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE
THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING,
GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES,' AS AMENDED

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432 as amended, is hereby further
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 2. Definition of terms. – For purposes of this Act, these terms are
4 defined as follows:

5 "(a) x x x;

6 x x x;

7 "(h) x x x;

8 "I) PENSION PROVIDER REFERS TO ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE
9 OR AGENCY, OR ANY PRIVATE ENTITY WHICH PROVIDES
10 PENSIONS TO ENTITLED RECIPIENTS ON THE BASIS OF
11 CONTRIBUTIONS, GRATUITY, OR AS MANDATED BY ANY
12 GOVERNING LAW OR ISSUANCE, INCLUDING THE SOCIAL
13 SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE
14 INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), AND THE PENSION AND GRATUITY
15 MANAGEMENT CENTER (PGMC);

16 "J) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE MONETARY GRANT FROM
17 THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND
18 MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE

1 **LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) PER**
2 **MONTH.”**

3 **SEC. 2.** Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further
4 amended to read as follows:

5 “SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* – The government shall provide the
6 following:

7 “(a) Employment

8 “ x x x.

9 “Private entities that will employ senior citizens as employees, upon the
10 effectivity of this Act, shall be entitled to an additional deduction from their
11 gross income, equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount paid
12 as salaries and wages to senior citizens, subject to the provision of Section
13 34 of the NIRC, as amended: Provided, however, That such employment
14 shall continue for a period of at least six (6) months: Provided, further,
15 That the annual income of the senior citizen does not exceed the latest
16 poverty threshold as [determined] **PUBLISHED** by the [National Statistical
17 Coordination Board (NSCB) of the National Economic and Development
18 Authority (NEDA)] **PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA)** for that
19 year.

20 x x x

21 “(h) Additional Government Assistance

22 “(1) **MANDATORY** Social Pension

23 “Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend
24 amounting to [Five hundred] **NOT LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND**
25 pesos [(Php500)] **(Php1,000.00)** to augment the daily subsistence
26 and other medical needs of senior citizens [subject to a review every
27 two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD].

28 **THE DSWD SHALL, SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE**
29 **DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM), IN**
30 **CONSULTATION WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND,**
31 **WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION**
32 **EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT,**
33 **TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PRESENT CONSUMER PRICE**
34 **INDEX AS PUBLISHED BY THE PSA AND RELEVANT ECONOMIC**
35 **INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT**
36 **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES.**

37 **THE IMPLEMENTATION, DISTRIBUTION, AND MANAGEMENT**
38 **OF THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE**

1 **DSWD TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS**
2 **(NCSC) WITHIN A PERIOD NOT EXCEEDING THREE (3) YEARS**
3 **FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.**

4 “(2) x x x

5 “(3) Social Safety Nets

6 “Social safety assistance intended to cushion the effects of economic
7 shocks, disasters, and calamities shall be available for senior
8 citizens. The social safety assistance which shall include[, but not
9 limited to] food, medicines, and financial assistance for domicile
10 repair, shall be sourced from the disaster/calamity funds of LGUs
11 where the senior citizens reside, subject to the guidelines to be
12 issued by the [DSWD] NCSC.”

13 **SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within thirty (30) days from
14 the effectivity of this Act, the NCSC shall, in consultation with DSWD, DBM and
15 other concerned government agencies, as well as nongovernmental
16 organizations and people’s organizations of senior citizens duly accredited by
17 the DSWD, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
18 implementation of this Act.

19 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
20 of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DSWD.
21 Thereafter such amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act
22 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

23 **SEC. 5. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, issuances, and rules
24 and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
25 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

26 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act shall be held
27 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall
28 remain in full force and effect.

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

31 *Approved.*