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**SENATE**  
S.B. No. 1573

RECEIVED BY: 

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**Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.**

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**AN ACT**  
**EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS' ACT, AMENDING**  
**FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 7432, otherwise known as "*An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and for other purposes,*" was enacted primarily to acknowledge the role that our elderly have served during the more productive years of their lives.

RA 7432 was amended successively to further grant additional benefits to senior citizens. To date, the elderly enjoy a wide range of benefits and privileges ranging from discounts to goods and services, tax exemptions, various government assistance programs, and express lanes. These benefits and privileges are very helpful to our elderly, especially those who are taking maintenance medications. The social pension given to indigent senior citizens provides assistance for daily expenses. Furthermore, the mandatory Philhealth coverage to senior citizens cannot be overemphasized as its assistance is a huge aid to our *lolos* and *lolas*.

The benefits and privileges granted by statutes to senior citizens are indeed numerous, and we believe that they deserve all these. This proposed measure aims to lower the age of those covered by the "Expanded Senior Citizens' Act" to include the elderly aged fifty-six (56) and above. By approving this proposal, said benefits and privileges may also be enjoyed by fifty-sixers and above. This will further accord our elderly the recognition and appreciation that they rightfully deserve.

In view of the foregoing, consideration of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act  
2 No. 9257, and Republic Act No. 9994, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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

5                   (a) *Senior Citizen* or *elderly* refers to any resident citizen of the  
6 Philippines at least [~~sixty (60)~~] **FIFTY-SIX (56)** years old;

7                   (b) ...

8                               xxx."

9           Sec. 2. *Appropriations.* – The amounts necessary to carry out the initial  
10 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriation of  
11 the agencies. Thereafter, the amounts necessary for the continued implementation of  
12 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13  
14           Sec. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason any section or provision of this  
15 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not  
16 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

1            *Sec. 4. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, rules and regulations or parts  
2 thereof contrary to, or inconsistent with, this Act are hereby repealed, amended or  
3 modified accordingly.

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

*Approved.*