

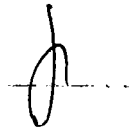
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*Third Regular Session*

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20 OCT 21 15:28

**SENATE**

**S. No. 2854**



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**Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.**

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**AN ACT  
GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED,  
ENTITLED "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR  
CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL  
PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

There is no debate that our country's elderly sector deserves the care and concern that the State can afford them. This is in recognition of the contributions and inputs they impacted in the prime of their lives.

There have been numerous laws enacted to promote the welfare of senior citizens in the country. This is proof that the State is committed to further the well-being of our elderly sector.

This proposed measure is the States message, loud and clear, of its faithfulness to its commitment to protect the rights and uphold the welfare of our senior citizens on whose contributions, much of our country's triumphs have been achieved.

With a profound understanding of their susceptibility to risk factors that endanger their health and social security, this bill seeks to provide social pension to all senior citizens, regardless of social status. By virtue of 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, indigent senior citizens are given a monthly stipend in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos (Php

500). This was increased to One Thousand Pesos (Php 1000) through the enactment of Republic Act No. 11916 last July 2021.

If enacted into law, all senior citizens will be entitled to the social pension. This social protection program of the government will not anymore be limited to the indigent portion of the sector, but will also be accessible and available to all lolos and lolas.


When the social pension becomes universal, one of the possible gains will be the elimination of targeting errors. This is because all of the senior citizens will be covered. Eligibility criteria is very transparent and is very easy to understand. Another benefit is it may provide security for low-income informal sector workers who may not be covered in the indigent portion of the sector. These possible gains are put forward by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly, Inc.

While we wish that no Filipino senior citizen will be left behind in terms of financial support from the government, this proposal included a provision that still gives priority to the indigent portion of the sector. This is in recognition of their vulnerability to economic shocks.

In light of our commitment to promote welfare of the senior citizen sector, consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.** 

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 2854**

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**GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS,**  
**AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED.**  
**ENTITLED "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR**  
**CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL**  
**PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

*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, is hereby further  
2 amended to read as follows:

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

5           "(a) xxx

6           Xxx

7           "(j) **UNIVERSAL** *Social Pension* refers to [the] **A NON-**  
8 **CONTRIBUTORY MONTHLY** monetary grant from the  
9 government to support the daily subsistence and medical needs  
10 of senior citizens [~~which shall not be less than One thousand~~  
11 ~~pesos (P1,000.00) per month~~]."

12  
13           Sec. 2. Section 5(h)(1) of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further  
14 amended to read as follows:

1 "Sec. 5. *Government Assistance*. – The government shall provide  
2 the following:

3 "(a) xxx

4 xxx

5 (h) Additional Government Assistance

6 (1) [Mandatory] **UNIVERSAL** Social Pension

7 A. Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly  
8 stipend amounting to [~~not less than~~] **AT LEAST** One  
9 thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to augment the ~~IR~~ daily  
10 subsistence and other medical needs [~~of senior citizens~~].

11 B. **SENIOR CITIZENS WHO ARE NOT CONSIDERED AS**  
12 **INDIGENT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A MONTHLY**  
13 **STIPEND AMOUNTING TO AT LEAST FIVE**  
14 **HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) UPON THE**  
15 **EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE**  
16 **RECEIPT OF THIS PENSION IS WITHOUT**  
17 **PREJUDICE TO WHATEVER THE SENIOR CITIZEN**  
18 **IS RECEIVING FROM OTHER PENSION**  
19 **PROVIDERS;**

20 [The DSWD shall, subject to the approval of the Department  
21 of Budget and Management (DBM), in consultation with other  
22 stakeholders, review and, when necessary, adjust the amount  
23 of the social pension every two (2) years after the effectivity  
24 of this Act, taking into account the present consumer price  
25 index as published by the PSA and relevant economic  
26 indicators, as reported and published by pertinent government  
27 agencies and authorities.]

28 **"THE DSWD, SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE**  
29 **DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM),**  
30 **AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, REVIEW AND IF**  
31 **NECESSARY, ADJUST THE AMOUNT OF UNIVERSAL**

1           **SOCIAL PENSION EVERY TWO (2) YEARS UPON THE**  
2           **EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT**  
3           **THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND**  
4           **RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED**  
5           **AND PUBLISHED BY PERTINENT GOVERNMENT**  
6           **AGENCIES AND AUTHORITIES: *PROVIDED*, THAT IN**  
7           **THE EVENT OF INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL**  
8           **PENSION, THE INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS ARE**  
9           **GIVEN UTMOST PRIORITY.**

10  
11           **PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT IN THE EVENT OF**  
12           **INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION, THE**  
13           **INDIGENT SENIORS SHALL BE PRIORITIZED**  
14

15           *Sec. 2. Appropriations.* – The amount needed for the implementation of this  
16 Act shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD, in the General  
17 Appropriations Act (GAA), and thereafter, to the National Commission of Senior  
18 Citizens, upon full transfer of the implementation, distribution and management of the  
19 social pension.  
20

21           *Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from  
22 the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the National Commission of Senior  
23 Citizens, in coordination with the DSWD shall formulate and adopt amendments to the  
24 existing rules and regulations implementing Republic Act No. 11916 to carry out the  
25 provisions of this Act, in consultation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders.  
26

27           *Sec. 4. Separability Clause.* – if any provision of this Act shall be declared  
28 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in  
29 full force and effect.  
30

1            *Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.* – Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act  
2 Nos. 9257 and 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010”  
3 and Republic Act No. 11916 are hereby amended. All other laws, decrees, orders, and  
4 issuances or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,  
5 are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

6  
7            *Sec. 6. Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
8 in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*