

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

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RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

S. B. NO. 1893

Introduced by Senate President Manny Villar

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Health has been the perennial problem for most elderly Filipinos who upon reaching the age of sixty (60) have become vulnerable to diseases. As might be expected, their health status is worse than that of the young generation. Most of them have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. The most frequent health problems are arthritis, hypertension, hearing and visual impairments, heart disease, orthopedic impairments, sinusitis, cataracts and diabetes. Thus, they visit their doctor more frequently and are hospitalized for longer periods than young people. There are times, however, that they contract diseases during their hospitalization, particularly those which are air-borne, such as influenza virus and pneumococcal disease.

This bill therefore seeks to amend Section 4 of R.A. 7432, as amended by R.A. 9257, by providing senior citizens the additional privilege of free vaccination against the influenza virus and pneumococcal disease prior to their discharge from any government hospital where he or she is admitted for a period of more than twenty-four hours for a condition unrelated to the influenza virus or pneumococcal disease.

It is hoped that this proposed measure will effectively address the health concern of our once-young citizens who in their younger years had contributed to the welfare of the nation.


In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is respectfully urged.


MANNY VILLAR
Senate President

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S E N A T E

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FREE IMMUNIZATION AGAINST INFLUENZA VIRUS AND
PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS OR THE ELDERLY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, SECTION 4 OF R.A. NO. 7432, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "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 Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "**Senior Citizens Immunization Act of 2007.**"

SEC. 2. Section 4 of R.A. 7432, as amended by R.A. 9257, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. - The Senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

- a) The grant of twenty percent (20%) discount from all establishments relative to the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishment, restaurants and recreation centers, and purchase of medicines in all establishments for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens, including funeral and burial services for the death of senior citizens;
- b) a minimum of twenty percent (20%) discount on admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, carnivals, and other

similar places of culture, leisure and amusement for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens;

- c) exemption from the payment of individual income taxes: Provided, That their annual taxable income does not exceed the poverty level as determined by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) for that year;
- d) exemption from training fees for socioeconomic programs;
- e) free medical and dental service, diagnostic and laboratory fees such as, but not limited to x-rays, computerized tomography scans and blood tests, in all government facilities, subject to the guidelines to be used by the Department of Health in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH);
- f) **FREE VACCINATION AGAINST THE INFLUENZA VIRUS AND PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE PRIOR TO THEIR DISCHARGE FROM ANY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL WHERE HE OR SHE IS ADMITTED FOR A PERIOD OF MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FOR A CONDITION UNRELATED TO THE INFLUENZA VIRUS OR PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE;**
- [f] g) the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount on medical and dental services, and diagnostic and laboratory fees provided under Section 4 (e) hereof, including professional fees of attending doctors in all private hospitals and medical facilities, in accordance with

the rules and regulations to be issued by the Department of Health, in coordination with the Philippines Health Insurance Corporation;

[g] **h)** the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount in fare for domestic air and sea travel for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens;

[h] **i)** the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount in public railways, skyways and bus fare for the exclusive use and enjoyment of senior citizens;

[i] **j)** educational assistance to senior citizens to pursue post secondary, tertiary, post tertiary, as well as vocational or technical education in both public and private schools through provision of scholarship, grants, financial aid subsidies and other incentives to qualified senior citizens, including support for books, learning materials, and uniform allowance, to the extent feasible: Provided, That senior citizens shall meet minimum admission requirement;

[j] **k)** to the extent practicable and feasible, the continuance of the same benefits and privileges given by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Social Security System (SSS) and PAG-IBIG, as the case maybe, as are enjoyed by those in actual service;

[k] **l)** retirement benefits of retirees from both the government and private sector shall be regularly reviewed to ensure their continuing responsiveness and sustainability, and to the extent practicable and

feasible, shall be upgraded to be at par with the current scale enjoyed by those in actual service;

[l] **m)** to the extent possible, the government may grant special discounts in special programs for senior citizens on purchase of basic commodities, subject to the guidelines to be issued for the purpose by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA); and

[m] **n)** provision of express lanes for senior citizens in all commercial and government establishments, in the absence thereof, priority shall be given to them.

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SEC. 3. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act upon its effectivity shall be appropriated out of the funds not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, any such sum as shall be needed for the regular implementation of this Act shall be included in the subsequent General Appropriations Act following its enactment into law.

SEC. 4. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are consistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,