

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

8 14

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY: 

**S. NO. 1996**

**Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to impose stiffer penalties on pharmacies and drug stores which refuse to honor the senior citizen card issued by the government to senior citizens for availment of benefits and privileges granted under Republic Act No. 7432.

The Constitution mandates under Article XIII, Sec. II that:

"The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children."

Republic Act No. 7432 was passed into law to effectively design specific programs for the elderly. Among its provisions is the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount for the purchase of medicines by the elderly from all pharmacies and drugstores anywhere in the country.

However, most of these pharmacies and drug stores refuse to honor the senior citizen card. Even some pharmacies and drugstores impose additional requirements not provided in the law before they sell medicines to the elderly such as requiring written authorization from the senior citizen who may be sick.


Hence, pharmacies and drug stores should be sanctioned more severely for non-compliance of Republic Act No. 7432 considering that the wealthy well-being of the elderly is involved. Approval of this bill is strongly recommended.

  
**ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV**  
Senator

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**AN ACT**  
**IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES ON PHARMACIES AND DRUG STORES WHICH**  
**REFUSE TO HONOR SENIOR CITIZEN CARD ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** In addition to the appropriate penalties provided under Republic Act No.  
2 7432, the owner, manager and/or employee of any pharmacy and drug store who refuses to honor  
3 the senior citizen card issued by the government shall, if found guilty, be punished with a fine of  
4 not less than one thousand pesos (P1,000) nor more than five thousand pesos (P5,000) or  
5 imprisonment of not less than one (1) month nor more than six (6) months or both such fine and  
6 imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

7           Further, the franchise or permit to operate of the pharmacy or drug store concerned may  
8 be suspended or cancelled.

9  
10           **SEC. 2.** The Office for the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) shall upon complaint, assist  
11 the senior citizen concerned in filing a complaint against any pharmacy or drug store with the  
12 City or Municipal Trial Court.

13  
14           **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two  
15 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,