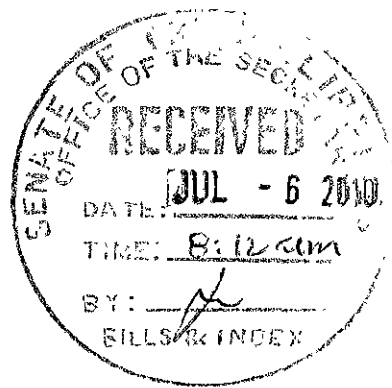


**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
*First Regular Session*



**SENATE**

**S. B. No. 151**

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**Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto**

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**Explanatory Note**

One of the most significant pieces of legislation passed by the 14th Congress last year was Republic Act No. 9994, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, which provided additional benefits to our beloved senior citizens. This law was enacted in recognition of the rights of our senior citizens and in support of their total well-being and full participation in society.

Among the benefits and privileges provided in this Act is the grant of a twenty-percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value -added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of some goods and services. It also includes other benefits and privileges such as free vaccines for indigent senior citizens, death benefit assistance, educational assistance, free medical and dental services, mandatory PhilHealth coverage, and exemption from training fees for socioeconomic programs, among others.

But one of the most important benefits of R.A. 9994 is the grant of a social pension for indigent senior citizens in the amount of P500 per month, to be administered by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

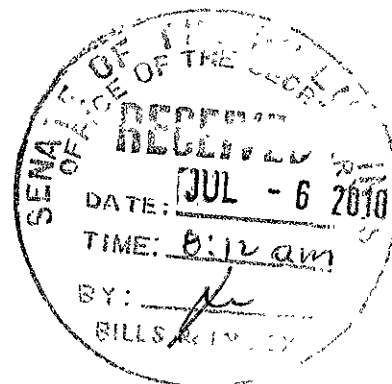
However, the law did not provide for the immediate appropriation of this monthly pension. Instead, funds to cover the benefit will only be included in the DSWD budget of subsequent General Appropriations Acts, to begin on fiscal year 2011.

Citing latest census data, DSWD estimated that it would cost some P7 billion annually to fund this provision of R.A. 9994 as there are more than a million indigent senior citizens entitled to the monthly pension,

This bill aims to expedite the grant of this pension effective July 2010 by allocating P3.5 billion to fund this provision of R.A. 9994 in the form of a separate appropriations law.

Our senior citizens should not be made to wait for a full year to receive this benefit. It is high time that they enjoy additional benefits and privileges from the government and that they should enjoy it at the soonest possible time.

**RALPH G. RECTO**



SENATE  
S. B. No. 151

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Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

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AN ACT  
APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF THREE BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P3,500,000,000.00) AS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2010 TO FINANCE THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION FOR INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS, AS PROVIDED FOR BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”

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

1        **Section 1. Appropriations.** The sum of Three Billion Five Hundred Million Pesos  
2 (P3,500,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to fund and support the monthly social pension for  
3 indigent senior citizens for Fiscal Year 2010 as provided for in Section 1, Article 20 of Republic  
4 Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010”.

5        **Section 2. Use of Funds.** - The amounts herein appropriated shall be used for the  
6 purposes indicated and subject to: (i) the relevant special and general provisions of Republic Act  
7 No. 9970, or the FY 2010 General Appropriations Act and subsequent General Appropriations  
8 Acts, and (ii) the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9994, entitled: "An Act Granting  
9 Additional Benefits and Privileges to Senior Citizens, Further Amending Republic Act No. 7432,  
10 As Amended, Otherwise Known as “An Act To Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to  
11 Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and for Other Purposes.: *Provided,*  
12 *however,* That disbursement of the amounts herein appropriated or any part thereof shall be  
13 authorized only in strict compliance with the Constitution, and the provisions of Republic Act  
14 No. 9994.

15        **Section 3. Release of Funds.** - The amounts herein appropriated shall be released to the  
16 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) by the Department of Budget and  
17 Management in accordance with budgeting laws, rules and regulations.

18        **Section 4. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) following its  
19 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or the Official Gazette.

*Approved,*