


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

SECRETARY

8 NOV 10 2007

SENATE
S. No. 2707

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Improving financial literacy is a critical and complex task for Filipinos of all ages. Low levels of savings and high levels of personal and real estate debt are serious problems for many households nearing retirement. Personal savings rates have fallen to a dangerously low 2 percent.

Studies have revealed that there is a substantial gender gap in all sources of retirement income including Social Security, pensions, savings and earnings from post-retirement employment. Because women have longer life expectancies, the number of poor older women is more than twice the number of poor older men.

Mid-life and older individuals and families have a more limited time frame to assess the realities of their individual circumstances, to recover from counter-productive choices and decision-making processes, and to benefit from more informed financial practices. This situation has an immediate impact and near term consequences for Filipinos nearing or of retirement age.

Research indicates that there are now four basic sources of retirement income security. Those sources are social security benefits, pensions and savings, healthcare insurance coverage, and, for an increasing number of older individuals, necessary earnings from working during 'retirement' years. It was also revealed that about a quarter of baby-boomer households have so far failed to accumulate significant savings and that they appear likely to depend entirely on government benefits in retirement.


Fraud against older individuals, including telemarketing schemes, predatory lending, identity theft and Internet fraud has risen dramatically. It is therefore the sense of Congress that, in providing assistance under this Act, the government will place a high priority on the provision of such assistance to organizations that have demonstrated experience in providing financial education to older women.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
for

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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1 AN ACT
2 ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM TO ENHANCE FINANCIAL AND
3 RETIREMENT LITERACY FOR MID-LIFE AND OLDER FILIPINOS
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
6 *Congress assembled:*

7
8 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Retirement Security
9 Education Act of 2008".

10 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* As used in this Act unless the context indicates
11 otherwise, the following definition of terms shall be adopted:

- 12 A. "Financial Education" refers to education that promotes an understanding of
13 consumer, economic, and personal finance concepts, including saving for
14 retirement, long-term care, and estate planning and education on predatory
15 lending, identity theft, and financial abuse schemes.
- 16 B. "Mid-Life Individual" refers to an individual aged 45 to 64 years.
- 17 C. "Older Individual" refers to an individual aged 65 or older.
- 18 D. "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of Health.

19 SECTION 3. *Grant Program to Enhance Financial and Retirement Literacy and*
20 *Reduce Financial Abuse and Fraud among Mid-Life and Older Filipinos.*

- 21 A. Authority - The Secretary is authorized to award grants to eligible entities to
22 provide financial education programs to mid-life and older individuals who reside
23 in local communities in order to--

- 1 1. enhance and promote knowledge of financial issues, long-term care, and
- 2 retirement issues among such individuals; and
- 3 2. reduce financial abuse and fraud, including telemarketing, mortgage, and
- 4 pension fraud, among such individuals.

5 B. Eligible Entities- An entity is eligible to receive a grant under this section if such
6 entity belongs to the following categories:

- 7 1. a government agency or area agency on aging; or
- 8 2. a non-profit organization with a proven record of providing--
 - 9 a. services to mid-life and older individuals;
 - 10 b. consumer awareness programs; or
 - 11 c. supportive services to low-income families.

12 C. Application - An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an
13 application to the Secretary in such form and containing such information as the
14 Secretary may require, including a plan for continuing the programs provided
15 with grant funds under this section after the grant expires.

16 D. Limitation on Administrative Costs - A recipient of a grant under this section may
17 not use more than 4 percent of the total amount of the grant in each fiscal year for
18 the administrative costs of carrying out the programs provided with grant funds
19 under this section.

20 E. Evaluation and Report-

21 1. Establishment of Performance Measures - The Secretary shall develop
22 measures to evaluate the programs provided with grant funds under this
23 section.

24 2. Evaluation According to Performance Measures - Applying the
25 performance measures developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
26 evaluate the programs provided with grant funds under this section in
27 order to--

- 28 a. judge the performance and effectiveness of such programs;

- 1 b. identify which programs represent the best practices of entities
2 developing such programs for mid-life and older individuals; and
3 c. identify which programs may be replicated.

4 F. Annual Reports - For each fiscal year in which a grant is awarded under this
5 section, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress containing a description of
6 the status of the grant program under this section, a description of the programs
7 provided with grant funds under this section, and the results of the evaluation of
8 such programs under paragraph (2).

9 SECTION 4. *National Training and Technical Assistance Program.*

10 A. Authority - The Secretary is authorized to award a grant to one or more eligible
11 entities to--

- 12 1. create and make available instructional materials and information that
13 promote financial education ; and
14 2. provide training and other related assistance regarding the establishment
15 of financial education programs to eligible entities awarded a grant under
16 section 3.

17 B. Eligible Entities- An entity is eligible to receive a grant under this section if such
18 entity is a nonprofit organization with substantial experience in the field of
19 financial education.

20 C. Application- An eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an
21 application to the Secretary in such form and containing such information as the
22 Secretary may require.

23 D. Basis and Term- The Secretary shall award a grant under this section on a
24 competitive, merit basis.

25 SECTION 5. *Appropriation.* – The amount of One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) is
26 hereby authorized to be appropriated for the Grant Program to Enhance Financial and
27 Retirement Literacy. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the operation of the Grant shall
28 be included in the General Appropriations Act.

1 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
3 remain valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 orders, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule and regulation contrary to, or
6 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
7 accordingly.

8 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
9 following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

10 Approved,

11