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SENATE

S.B. No. 3153

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our senior citizens are a reservoir of experience and expertise, maturity and wisdom which our society should properly recognize. They have contributed so much to the laying of the foundations upon which the current generation of Filipinos continue to build our nation for the future.

Section 11, Article XIII of the 1987 Constitution provides 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 under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

In consonant to this constitutional mandate, and to show the State's gratitude for our senior citizens' hardship, sacrifices and great contribution without whom, we would not have been where we are now, this bill seeks to introduce measures in order to ensure that senior citizens fully enjoy the benefits intended for them by the law.

Republic Act No. 9257 or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003" was enacted to grant benefits and special privileges to the elderly in response to the above-cited constitutional mandate. Paragraph (a), Section 4 of this law among others, grants a twenty percent (20%) discount to senior citizens, with government-issued senior citizen card, on the purchase of drugs and medicines in drug stores, pharmacies, and other business establishments which sell drugs and medicines. However, imposition of the twelve percent (12%) Expanded Value Added Tax (EVAT) resulted to senior citizens effectively receiving less than half of the (20%) discount and diminished the enjoyment of such privileges that the law has afforded to them. This proposed measure will level out that existing benefits and privileges, and in effect uphold the intent of the law.

Immediate passage of this bill is highly needed.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.
Senator

14th CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

9 APR 14 12:30

SENATE

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S.B. No. 3153

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AN ACT
AMENDING PARAGRAPH (a), SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2003

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (a), Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003, is hereby 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. THE GRANT OF THIRTY TWO PERCENT (32%) DISCOUNT ON THE PURCHASE OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES IN DRUG STORES, PHARMACIES, AND OTHER BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH SELL DRUGS AND MEDICINES FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF SENIOR CITIZENS;

c. the grant of twenty percent (20%) discount on funeral and burial services for the death of senior citizens;

x x x"

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders or rules and regulations, which may be inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,