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SENATE
P.S. Res **1042**

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Poe

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERS 7432 AND 9994 BENEFITING OUR SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE HURDLES LEADING TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AND COMPLIANCE TO SAID LAWS, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF FORMULATING A UNIFORM SET OF RULES OR GUIDELINES FOR ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION.

WHEREAS, Section 4, Article XV of the 1987 Constitution provides that "The family has the **duty to care for its elderly members** but the State may also do so through just programs of social security." Section 10, Article II of the Constitution likewise provides that the State shall promote **social justice in all phases of national development**.

WHEREAS, Section 11, Article XIII of the Constitution also provides, among others, that there shall be **priority for the needs** of the under-privileged, sick, **elderly**, disabled, women, and children.

WHEREAS, in order to carry out the above-mentioned constitutional provisions, **Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7432**, otherwise known as "*An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits and Special Privileges and for other Purposes*", was enacted in 1992 and was amended in 2010 by **R.A. No. 9994**, otherwise known as the "*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*."

WHEREAS, the objectives of R.A. Nos. 7432 and 9994 are to: (a) recognize the rights of senior citizens to take their proper place in society and make it a concern of the family, community, and government; (b) give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of Philippine society; and (c) recognize the important role of the private sector in the improvement of the welfare of senior citizens and to actively seek their partnership, among others.

WHEREAS, it has been reported¹ that some business establishments have been denying our senior citizens of their full law-mandated discounts, benefits and/or privileges through numerous unjustified conditions or requirements, to wit:

- a. While the law grants a 20-percent discount, a certain famous restaurant gives a senior citizen who orders food for home-delivery a flat discount of just P100 and only if his minimum order is P2,500;²

¹ <http://www.philstar.com/opinion/2014/10/28/1385187/resto-has-own-version-senior-citizens-law>

² *Ibid.*

- b. A senior citizen once claimed a 20-percent discount at a hotel, but was denied it because management said he already had another discount under a promo — accordingly, it would be tantamount to double discount;³
- c. Some senior citizens are being denied the discounts and other benefits and/or privileges due them under the law in instances that they cannot show their Senior Citizen's ID, despite the availability of other IDs and/or documents stating their age or birthdates;⁴ and
- d. At a mall's grocery stores, the cashier no longer asks for the purchase booklet but limits to a flat P65 the allowed 5-percent discount on prime commodities and basic necessities regardless of the total value.⁵

WHEREAS, based on the National Statistics Office's (NSO) "Philippines in Figures 2014", the number of our countrymen from the age group 60 and above is around 6.8 million.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the above-stated constitutional precepts and the spirit and objectives of R.A. Nos. 7432 and 9994, the State is behooved to ensure that the same are truly being implemented as such are not only the State's legacy but its mandate to value, respect, dignify and look out for our senior citizens who have long toiled to be where we are now as Filipinos and as a nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate, to urge the Senate Committees on Justice and Human Rights and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, as to the implementation of Republic Act Numbers 7432 and 9994 and the issues, controversies and/or problems leading to various interpretations and compliance to said laws, with the objective of formulating a uniform set of rules or guidelines for its effective implementation.

Adopted


GRACE POE

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Ibid.*