



**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

First Regular Session

'17 JAN 17 A10 :03

SENATE
S.B. **1295**

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Poe

**AN ACT
GRANTING BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO JUNIOR CITIZENS**

Explanatory Note

The 1987 Philippine Constitution is known for its strong provisions on social justice and fair treatment of citizens, including children, as manifested in several provisions:

- Section 9, Article II: The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all;
- Section 10, Article II: The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development;
- Section 11, Article II: The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;
- Section 13, Article II: The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;

- Section 11, Article XIII: 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. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers, and
- Section 3, Paragraph 2, Article XV: The State shall defend the right of children to assistance, including proper care and nutrition, and special protection from all forms of neglect, abuse, cruelty, exploitation, and other conditions prejudicial to their development.

The above constitutional provisions are significant and relevant as it serve as the yardstick of government protection for children who should be regarded as the most important assets of the nation. Adequate support for children 0 to 12 years of age—or the “Junior Citizens”—could correspond to their development, prepare them for responsibilities of adulthood, and eventually involve them in public and civic affairs when they grow up.

Under this proposed legislation, junior citizens, whose family’s annual income does not exceed Php250,000.00, shall be entitled to benefits, such as twenty (20) percent discount from the value-added tax (VAT) of certain goods and services from all establishments including:

- Medicines, vaccines and essential medical supplies, accessories; milk supplements of children aged 4 to 12 years;
- Professional fees of attending physicians in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services;
- Medical and dental services;
- Admission fees charged by theatres, cinema houses and concert halls, leisure and amusement; and

- Funeral and burial services for death of junior citizens, and equipment mandatory coverage by the state health insurer Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth).

Once enacted into law, this measure would surely help every poor Filipino family's financial constraints. Thus, consideration and subsequent passage of this bill is urgently sought.¹


GRACE POE

¹This bill is a counterpart measure to House Bill No. 2881 filed by Surigao_del Norte Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers (2nd District) in the House of Representatives this 17th Congress.



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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Junior Citizens Act of*
2 *2017.*”

3
4 **SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policies and Objectives.* – As provided in the
5 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, it is declared the policy of the State to
6 promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of
7 the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social
8 services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living and an improved quality of
9 life. In the Declaration of Principles and State Policies in Sections 10 and 11, Article II, it is
10 further declared that the State shall provide social justice in all phases of national
11 development and that the State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full
12 respect for human rights.

13
14 The child is one of the most important assets of the nation. Every effort should be
15 exerted to promote the child’s welfare and enhance his/her opportunities for a useful and
16 happy life.

17

1 1.) On the purchase of medicines, including the purchase of vaccines, and such
2 other essential medical supplies, accessories and equipment to be determined
3 by the Department of Health (DOH).
4

5 The DOH shall establish guidelines among retailers, manufacturers and
6 distributors, taking into consideration their respective margins;

7 2.) On the purchase of milk supplements for children aged four (4) to twelve (12)
8 years;
9

10 3.) On the professional fees of attending physician/s in all private hospitals,
11 medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services;
12

13 4.) On the professional fees of home health care service providers, as endorsed by
14 private hospitals;
15

16 5.) On medical and dental services, diagnostics and laboratory fees in all private
17 hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and home health care services,
18 in accordance with the rules and regulations to be issued by the DOH, in
19 coordination with the Philippine Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);
20

21 6.) On admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert hall,
22 circuses, leisure and amusement; and
23

24 7.) On funeral and burial services for the death of junior citizens.
25

26 b.) Free medical and dental services, diagnostics and laboratory fees such as, but not
27 limited to, x-rays, computerized tomography scans and blood tests, in all
28 government facilities, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DOH in
29 coordination with the PhilHealth;

30 c.) The DOH, through the government hospitals and health centers, shall administer
31 all necessary pediatric vaccinations including but not limited to anti-influenza
32 virus and pneumococcal disease for junior citizen patients for free;
33

1 **SECTION 5. Requirements and Qualifications.** – In order to avail of the afore-
2 mentioned privileges, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the junior citizen must secure from the
3 barangay or the local government unit a Junior Citizen Identification Card and booklet.

4 In order for a junior citizen to be issued the Junior Citizen ID and booklet, the parent/s or
5 guardian/s must present the following documents:

6
7 a.) An original or certified true copy of the child's birth certificate issued by the
8 Philippine Statistics Authority;

9 b.) Income Tax Return showing that the family's annual income does not exceed Php
10 25,000.00; and

11
12 **SECTION 6. Availment of Benefits.** – In the purchase of goods and services which
13 are on promotional discount, the junior citizen can avail of the promotional discount or the
14 discount provided herein, whichever is higher.

15
16 **SECTION 7. Mandatory PhilHealth Coverage.** – All junior citizens shall be covered
17 by the national health insurance program of the PhilHealth and shall therefore be automatic
18 PhilHealth members until they reach the age of twelve (12), regardless of the family income.

19
20 **SECTION 8. Penalties.** – Any person or establishment who refuses to provide the
21 abovementioned privileges or violates any provision of this Act shall suffer the following
22 penalties:

23
24 a.) For the first violation, a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) but
25 not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00);

26
27 b.) For any subsequent violation, imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not
28 more than six (6) years and a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos
29 (Php100,000.00) but not exceeding Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php200,000.00).

30
31 If the offender is a corporation, partnership, organization or any similar entity, the
32 officials thereof directly involved such as president, general manager, managing partner, or

1 such other officer charged with the management of the business affairs, shall be liable
2 therefor, if the officer of the said corporation is an alien or a foreigner, he/she shall be
3 deported immediately after service of sentence.

4
5 Upon filing of an appropriate complaint, and after due notice and hearing, the proper
6 authorities may also cause the cancellation or revocation of the business permit, permit to
7 operate, franchise and other similar privileges granted to any person, establishment or
8 business entity that fails to abide by the provisions of this Act.

9
10 **SECTION 9. *Monitoring and Coordinating.*** – A National Coordinating and
11 Monitoring Board shall be established which shall be composed of the following:

- 12
13 a.) Chairperson – the Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH) or an authorized
14 representative;
- 15
16 b.) Vice Chairperson – The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and
17 Development (DSWD) or an authorized representative; and
- 18
19 c.) Members:
- 20
21 1.) The Secretary of the Department of Justice (DOJ) or an authorized representative;
- 22 2.) The Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) or an
23 authorized representative;
- 24 3.) The Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or an authorized
25 representative; and
- 26 4.) Representatives from the five (5) Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)
27 representing or catering to junior citizens that are duly accredited by the DOH
28 and/or DSWD and have service primarily for junior citizens, such as but not
29 limited to orphanages and the like.

30
31 Representatives of NGOs shall serve for a period of three (3) years.
32

1 The Board may call on other government agencies and NGOs to serve as resource
2 persons as the need arises. Resource persons have the right to vote in the National
3 Coordinating and Monitoring Board.

4
5 **SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from
6 the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall take the lead in formulating the
7 Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act, in consultation with the DSWD, DOJ,
8 DILG, DTI, Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Transport DOTr (DOTr), National
9 Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Education (DepED), the
10 Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), and five (5) NGOs for the junior
11 citizens duly accredited by the DSWD.

12
13 **SECTION 11. *Appropriations.*** – The requirements to implement the provisions of
14 this Act shall be included in their respective budgets: *Provided*, That the funds to be used for
15 the national health program and for the vaccination of junior citizens in the first year of the
16 DOH and thereafter, as a line item under the DOH budget in the subsequent General
17 Appropriations Act (GAA).

18
19 **SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations,
20 or any part thereof, inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

21
22 **SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this Act shall be
23 declared unconstitutional and invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof
24 which shall remain in full force and effect.

25
26 **SECTION 14. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
28 circulation.

Approved.