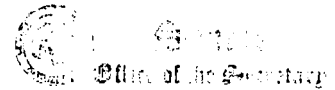


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



'18 JUL -4 P5:49

SENATE
S. B. No. 1865

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
INCREASING THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

While the Philippines is currently enjoying what is known as the demographic "sweet spot" or "window" wherein the size of the country's working age is relatively larger than its dependents, we are steadily transitioning into an older population. In fact, the Commission on Population (POPCOM) has projected that in 2017, senior citizens made up 8.2% (over 8 million Filipinos) of the overall population of the country. Out of the 8 million elderlies, 5 million – or 4.7% of the entire population – are aged 65 years or older.

This estimate puts us closer to being tagged as an aging population since, according to the Commission, aging countries have at least 7% of their overall population over 65 years old.

In the next decades, the number of elderly population is expected to increase; therefore, the country has implemented safeguards to ensure that our senior citizens are taken care of such as Republic Act No. 10645, which gave mandatory PhilHealth coverage for all senior citizens, and Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 which – along with the 20% discount and VAT exemption on medical-related expenses, transportation, food, and others – provided for social pension to our indigent senior citizens.

However, according to a study by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), more than half of the country's senior citizens receive no pension – whether contributory or social. Coupled with increasing health risks and the inability to find livelihood opportunities past the age of 60, senior citizens are truly in a vulnerable state.

The proposed measure intends to amend RA 9994 in order to a) increase the amount of social pension that our senior citizens are receiving from 500 pesos per month to 1,000

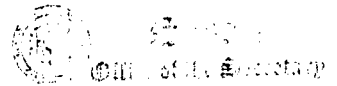
pesos, and b) widen the coverage of beneficiaries to include those without any form of pension. This will provide social protection to over 5 million vulnerable senior citizens.

In our intention to add another layer of safeguard, close the pension coverage gap, and recognize the efforts and contribution of our senior citizens, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SONNY ANGARA

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

1 Section 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act
2 No. 9257 and Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior
3 Citizens Act of 2010", is hereby further amended to read as flows:

4 "Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act, these
5 terms are defined as follows:

6 "x x x

7 ~~["(h) indigent senior citizen refers to any elderly who is frail, sickly,~~
8 ~~or with disability, and without pension or permanent source of~~
9 ~~income, compensation or financial assistance from his/her relatives~~
10 ~~to support his/her basic needs, as determined by the Department~~
11 ~~of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with~~
12 ~~the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board.]~~

13 **"(h) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE MONTHLY STIPEND**
14 **OR MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO**
15 **AUGMENT THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER MEDICAL**
16 **NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS**
17 **THAN ONE THOUSAND PESOS (₱1,000.00) PER MONTH."**

1 Sec. 2. Section 5 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to
2 read as follows:

3 "Sec. 5. *Government Assistance*. – The government shall provide
4 the following:

5 "x x x

6 "(h) Additional Government Assistance

7 "(1) Social Pension

8 "~~[Indigent]~~ **ALL** senior citizens **WITHOUT PENSION** shall be
9 entitled to a monthly ~~[stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos~~
10 ~~(P500.00)]~~ **SOCIAL PENSION OF AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND**
11 **PESOS (P1,000.00)** to augment the daily subsistence and other
12 medical needs of senior citizens~~[, subject to a review every two (2)~~
13 ~~years by Congress, in consultation with DSWD].~~

14 **"THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE REVIEWED**
15 **AND, WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUSTED OR INCREASED BY**
16 **THE DSWD EVERY TWO (2) YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY**
17 **OF THIS ACT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT**
18 **OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND OTHER**
19 **RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE**
20 **VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS, THE NATIONAL**
21 **INFLATION RATE, AND OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC**
22 **INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE**
23 **PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR AUTHORITIES:**
24 ***PROVIDED*, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE**
25 **LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS**
26 **ACT.**

27 **"THE COVERAGE OF THE SOCIAL PENSION PROGRAM**
28 **SHALL ALSO BE REVIEWED BY THE DSWD, IN**
29 **CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND**
30 **MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND OTHER RELEVANT**
31 **STAKEHOLDERS, AND WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUSTED TO**

1 **INCLUDE THOSE WHO ARE RECEIVING BELOW BASIC**
2 **PENSION.**

3 "x x x."

4 Sec. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
5 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full
6 force and effect.

7 Sec. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and
8 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
9 repealed or modified accordingly.

10 Sec. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of the general circulation.

 Approved,