
Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS,
FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY
R.A. NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR
CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"**

Explanatory Note

According to a study entitled *Population Ageing in the Philippines: Issues and Challenges*, the elderly population in the country is increasing faster than the growth of the total population.¹ As of 2018, there are 8.01 million elderly Filipinos in the country, accounting for 7% of the population. By 2030, the percentage of elderly Filipinos is projected to reach 11.5%.

Senior citizens are an extremely vulnerable group. They encounter many challenges which are difficult to hurdle due to their old age. As such, they require special protection from the State. The drafters of the 1987 Constitution recognized this and included provisions on the protection of the elderly in our fundamental law.

Income insecurity in old age is one of the major issues faced by the elderly. According to the Coalition of Services for the Elderly (COSE), the likelihood of finding employment falls sharply after the age of 60.² Thus, it is harder for senior citizens to get the income they need to live comfortably.

Senior citizens rely on other sources of income, such as assistance from their children and on contributory pensions from the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.³ However, these sources are often not enough. On one hand, financial support from one's children is often a "last resort", and is often limited due to other priorities.⁴ On the other hand, contributory pensions are often limited in coverage. Over 70% of the economically active population are

¹ Carlos, C. R. *Population Ageing in the Philippines*. 2017.

² Coalition of Services for the Elderly. *The Feasibility of a Social Pension in the Philippines* (January 2017).

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

not contributing to a pension.⁵ And receipt of a contributory pension is not a guarantee of income security.

This measure thus proposes the provision of a Universal Social Pension for all senior citizens. It seeks to further amend the relevant provisions of R.A. No. 7432, as amended by R.A. No. 9994, otherwise known as the "*Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010*." If this measure is enacted into law, all senior citizens will be provided with a pension of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 1,500.00). To ease the potential shock on our government's budget, this bill proposes that senior citizens covered by the SSS, GSIS and the pension for military veterans will not be provided until three (3) years after the Act's effectivity.

Speedy approval of this measure is eagerly sought.


GRACE POE

⁵ *Ibid.*

SENATE
S. No. 126

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

1 Section 1. Number (1), Paragraph (H), Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7432, as
2 amended, is further amended to read as follows:

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

5 "(a) Employment

6 x x x

7 "(h) Additional Government Assistance

8 "(1) Social Pension

9 "[Indigent] **ALL** senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly
10 stipend amounting to [~~Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)~~] **AT LEAST**
11 **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP1,500.00)** to
12 augment [the] **THEIR** daily subsistence and other medical needs. [of
13 senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in
14 consultation with the DSWD.]

15 **PROVIDED, THAT SENIOR CITIZENS CURRENTLY**
16 **COVERED BY THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, THE**
17 **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, AND THE**

1 **PENSION SYSTEM FOR MILITARY VETERANS UNDER R.A. NO.**
2 **6948 SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS BENEFIT IN THE**
3 **FIRST THREE (3) YEARS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS**
4 **ACT.**

5 **WHEN NECESSARY, THE DSWD MAY INCREASE OR**
6 **REVISE THE AMOUNT OF THE SOCIAL PENSION: *PROVIDED,***
7 **THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE**
8 **AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING**
9 **PARAGRAPHS."**

10 *Sec. 2. Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is declared invalid or
11 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue to be in full
12 force and effect.

13 *Sec. 3. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and
14 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
15 accordingly.

16 *Sec. 4. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its
17 publication in the Official Gazette.

 Approved,