


SENATE

'19 JUL -8 P2:19

Senate Bill No. 259

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

AN ACT
INCREASING THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED

EXPLANATORY NOTE

When the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 was signed into law, it provided for a social pension program for indigent senior citizens to supplement their daily subsistence. It gave some relief to three million of our elderly. However, a large proportion of vulnerable older people are still excluded from the program. In addition, the current monthly stipend for indigent senior citizens amounting to Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) is no longer enough to augment their daily subsistence and other medical needs. Increase in the prices of basic commodities in the past five years has reduced the real value of the social pension. According to a 2017 study¹, the purchasing power of the current benefit level has decreased to only Php 403 – a fall of 22% in real terms.

Thus, this measure seeks to increase the monthly social pension of senior citizens and expand its coverage to benefit all of the nation’s elderly and ensure that all of the poorest older people are reached by the program. Not only will the State provide safeguards to protect the wellbeing of senior citizens, it will also recognize the vital role they play in nation-building.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

¹ HelpAge International; Coalition of Services of the Elderly (2017). The Feasibility of a Universal Social Pension in the Philippines (January 2017).

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

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

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

"X X X

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

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

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

"SEC. 5. *Government Assistance.* – The government shall provide the following:

"X X X

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) Social Pension

"[Indigent] ALL senior citizens WITHOUT PENSION shall be entitled to a monthly ~~[stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)]~~ SOCIAL PENSION OF AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000.00) to augment [the] THEIR daily subsistence and other medical needs. ~~[of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD.]~~

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

"THE COVERAGE OF THE SOCIAL PENSION PROGRAM SHALL ALSO BE REVIEWED BY THE DSWD, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, AND WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUSTED TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO ARE RECEIVING BELOW BASIC PENSION.

1 "X X X."

2 SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
3 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full
4 force and effect.

5 SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, administrative orders, and
6 rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended
7 accordingly.

8 SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
10 circulation.

Approved,