



20 JAN 16 P 4:04

SENATE

S. No. 1270

RECEIVED BY: _____

[Signature]

Introduced by **SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA**

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016 AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The country owes a big part of its development to its elderly population, the Senior Citizens, who, during their youth and even thereafter, have made meaningful contributions to our nation. As one of the vulnerable sectors of society, Article XIII, Sec. 11 of the 1987 Constitution guarantees preferential treatment to them, affording “priority for the needs of the underprivileged sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers”.

At present, we are confronted with an undeniable reality that the country is moving towards an aging population with a declining life expectancy and shorter life span for our citizens. According to the World Health Organization’s statistics published in 2018, the average person residing in the Philippines has a lifespan of 69.3 years. This average shows that we are three years shorter than the global average of age 72. More dramatic is the shorter lifespan for Filipino men which is 66.2 years compared to the worldwide average of 69.2 years. Women residing in the Philippines typically outlive men with an average age of 72.6 while the global benchmark is 74.2 years for females.¹ As such, it is already a blessing if our countrymen manage to survive to become octogenarians, much less centenarians.

¹ World Health Organization (NA) *Global Health Observatory (GHO) data*. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/gho/countries/phl/en/>. Accessed last 5 January 2020.


With the end in view of covering more elderly Filipinos to enjoy the benefits of Republic Act No. 10868, or the Centenarians Act of 2016, by advancing the cash gift of the law to our senior citizens upon reaching the age of eighty (80), ninety (90), and one hundred (100), respectively, we can support them and their families to cope up and afford rising costs of living and healthcare expenses incurred by their advancing age and needs. By staggering the distribution of this assistance, we ensure our beloved elders to have more opportunities to enjoy the blessings of the law.

Approval of this proposed measure is most earnestly sought.


LEILA M. DE LIMA

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PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Sec. 2 of Republic Act No. 10868, otherwise known as
2 Centenarians Act of 2016, is hereby amended to read, as follows:

3 "Sec. 2. Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift. - All Filipinos who reach the age of
4 **EIGHTY (80) YEARS OLD, NINETY (90) YEARS OLD, AND** one hundred
5 (100) years old, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honoured
6 with:

7 [(a) A Letter of Felicitation from the President of the Philippines
8 congratulating the celebrant for his or her longevity; and]

9 **[b] (a) A [Centenarian] CASH Gift in the amount of TEN THOUSAND**
10 **PESOS (P10,000.00) UPON REACHING THE AGE OF EIGHTY (80)**
11 **YEARS OLD, THIRTY THOUSAND PESOS (P30,000.00) UPON**
12 **REACHING THE AGE OF NINETY (90) YEARS OLD, and [one hundred]**
13 **SIXTY thousand pesos (P60,000.00) UPON REACHING THE AGE OF ONE**
14 **HUNDRED (100) YEARS OLD.**

1 **PROVIDED, THAT ALL QUALIFIED FILIPINOS WHO HAVE**
2 **REACHED THE AGE OF EIGHTY (80) YEARS OLD AND NINETY (90)**
3 **YEARS OLD PRIOR TO THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT SHALL**
4 **RECEIVE THE TOTAL CASH GIFT/S CORRESPONDING THERETO; AND**

5 **B) A LETTER OF FELICITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE**
6 **PHILIPPINES CONGRATULATING THE CELEBRANT UPON REACHING**
7 **THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) YEARS OLD FOR HIS OR HER**
8 **LONGEVITY.**

9 *Sec. 2. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
10 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of
11 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

12 *Sec. 3. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.