

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

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**SENATE**

S. B. NO. 2569

RECEIVED



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Introduced by **SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

All throughout our youth, we work hard and save up for a comfortable retirement. We look forward to the day when we could watch our grandchildren play and devote ourselves to activities beyond the rigors of labor.

It is a time-honored Filipino tradition to care for the elderly and ensure that they are supported in their twilight days.

In 1992, I authored and sponsored the Senior Citizen's Law which grants benefits and special privileges to the Filipino elderly. It was a first and monumental attempt to give life to Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution, which states that "it is the duty of the family to take care of the elderly while the State may design programs of social security for them."


In the law, senior citizens are entitled to a 20% discount on the purchase of goods and services, medical and dental services, transport fare, funeral and burial services, among others.

However, it is discouraging and equally alarming to hear recent reports of pharmacies and many other establishments imposing a 12% value-added tax (VAT) on the sale of medicines and other goods on senior citizens. This prevents the elderly from fully enjoying the benefits mandated by law. In effect, instead of a full 20%, they are able to avail of only an 8% discount.

This bill will address this discrepancy. Here it is proposed that the discount of senior citizens be increased from 20% to 34%. This is a necessary increase to compensate for the negative effect of VAT on their present discounted rate.

Let us continue motivating and encouraging our elderly to contribute to nation building, and encourage their families and their communities to reaffirm their tradition of caring for the elderly.

Let us not begrudge them of their miles to walk before they sleep.

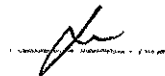


**EDGARDO J. ANGARA**  
Senator

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**AN ACT INCREASING THE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGE OF SENIOR CITIZENS FROM 20% TO 34%, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7432 OR "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES," AS AMENDED BY RA 9257 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 SECTION 1. Republic Act 7432 is hereby further amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 "SEC. 4. *Privileges for the Senior Citizens.* - The senior citizens  
4 shall be entitled to the following:

5 (a) the grant of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR**  
6 **PERCENT (34%)** discount from all establishments relative to  
7 the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging  
8 establishment, restaurants and recreation centers, and  
9 purchase of medicines in all establishments for the exclusive  
10 use or enjoyment of senior citizens, including funeral and  
11 burial services for the death of senior citizens;

12 (b) a minimum of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR**  
13 **PERCENT (34%)** discount on admission fees charged by  
14 theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses,  
15 carnivals, and other similar places of culture, leisure and  
16 amusement for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior  
17 citizens;

18 (c. xxx;

19 (d) xxx;

20 (e) xxx

21 (f) the grant of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR**  
22 **PERCENT (34%)** discount on medical and dental services,  
23 and diagnostic and laboratory fees provided under Section 4

1 (e) hereof, including professional fees of attending doctors in  
2 all private hospitals and medical facilities, in accordance  
3 with the rules and regulations to be issued by the  
4 Department of Health, in coordination with the Philippine  
5 Health Insurance Corporation;

6 (g) the grant of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR**  
7 **PERCENT (34%)** discount in fare for domestic air and sea  
8 travel for the exclusive use or enjoyment of senior citizens;

9 (h) the grant of [twenty percent (20%)] **THIRTY-FOUR**  
10 **PERCENT (34%)** discount in public railways, skyways and  
11 bus fare for the exclusive use and enjoyment of senior  
12 citizens;

13 (i) xxx;

14 (j) xxx.

15 (k) xxx.

16 (l) xxx; and

17 (m) xxx.

18  
19 **SECTION 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary  
20 of Social Welfare and Development jointly with the Department of  
21 Finance, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Health, the  
22 Department of Transportation and Communications shall issue the  
23 necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.  
24

25  
26 **SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.*** – All provisions of laws, orders, and  
27 decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby  
28 repealed and/or modified accordingly.  
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31 **SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part or provision of this  
32 Act shall be held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions  
33 hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force  
34 and effect.  
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36  
37 **SECTION 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15 days  
38 following its publication in one (1) national newspaper of general  
39 circulation.  
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43 *Approved,*