

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



'19 FEB 18 P 3:52

SENATE
S. No. 2212

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

**AN ACT
INCREASING THE MONTHLY SOCIAL PENSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND
EXPANDING THE COVERAGE THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTIONS 2 AND 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 9257, FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO 9994,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As we grow older, it becomes more difficult to generate income. The likelihood of being employed falls sharply after the age of 60. This is why social pension is important, playing a key role in supporting individuals to live their later years with autonomy and dignity.

Pensions provide a source of income that is both regular and predictable. It helps individuals to plan and also provides greater security which can reduce stress and anxiety. When older people receive a pension, they have a say in how they spend their income. This allows much greater agency, autonomy and dignity than when they have to depend on others for their needs.

According to a study conducted by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly (COSE), social pension constituted on average almost a third of household income, suggesting that it makes an important contribution to these households as it is used for food, medical expenses and other household bills.

Unfortunately, based also on the same study, of 8 million senior citizens in the country, only 32% receive social pension at only P500/month, while 38% do not

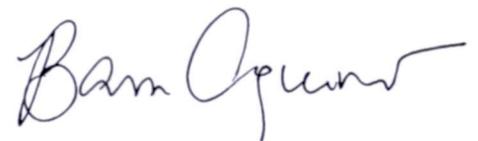
receive any pension at all. Even among the 1.5 million SSS pensioners, less than half receive not more than P3,400/month.

With no or inadequate pension for many Filipino senior citizens, they are forced to rely on the modest incomes of their families who are also struggling to make a living. Giving them social pension will greatly help to address their daily needs, and provide some relief to their households.

The proposed measure thus seeks to mandate government to provide social pension of P1,000 to all senior citizens who do not have social pension or receive some pension not greater than P3,000.

Our senior citizens have broadly contributed to the development of our nation. It is time for us to return their sacrifices by ensuring that they are cared for in their old age.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bam Aquino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



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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, further amended by 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:

xxx xxx xxx

~~["(h) Indigent senior citizen refers to any elderly who is frail, sickly, or with 8 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."]~~

SECTION. 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:

xxx xxx xxx

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) Social Pension

"~~[Indigent]~~ ALL senior citizens WHO ARE NOT RECEIVING PENSION OR WHO ARE RECEIVING PENSION IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE THOUSAND PESOS (Php3,000.00) AND BELOW FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), OR PENSION AND GRATUITY MANAGEMENT CENTER (PGMC), shall be entitled to a monthly stipend OF AT LEAST ~~[amounting to Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)]~~ ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, WHICH AMOUNT SHALL BE ~~[subject to a review]~~ REVIEWED every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD OR ANY AGENCY THAT SHALL BE SO DESIGNATED BY AN ACT OF CONGRESS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATIONAL INFLATION RATE AND OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS.

SENIOR CITIZENS WHO DO NOT NEED SOCIAL PENSION TO AUGMENT THEIR DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND MEDICAL NEEDS MAY OPT NOT TO CLAIM THE MONTHLY STIPEND. UNCLAIMED SOCIAL PENSION FUNDS SHALL REVERT BACK TO THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND FORM PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S GENERAL FUND.

xxx xxx xxx

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectively Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette

Approved