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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by REP. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the monthly stipend of indigent senior citizens from Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00) and to provide a monthly stipend of Two Thousand Pesos (P 2,000.00) to indigent senior citizens who are seventy (70) years old and above.

The 1987 Constitution provides under Sec. 10 of Article II that, "The State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development." It also provides under Sec. 9 of the Declaration of Principles and State Policies that, "The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

It further provides under Section 4, Article XV that, "The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security."

These principles enshrined in our Constitution not only protect the less privileged and the most vulnerable sectors in our society but also affirms their important role in the community and as partners in nation- building.

Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 provides for a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, relative to the social pension for indigent Filipino citizens. It cannot be denied that over the years the prices of necessities for our elderly, especially maintenance medicines and the like, have increased. By increasing their purchasing power this measure hopes not only to extend help and support to our elderly but also to encourage them to actively participate and impart their vast knowledge and experience necessary for our country to move forward.

It can also be said that those who are in dire need for said social pension are deprived of its benefits due to the age required for them to be covered as beneficiaries. Considering today's average life span such a requirement is somewhat unreasonable.

Therefore the time is ripe to revisit the provisions embodied in the existing statute and uphold the time honored principle that those who have less in life should have more in law.

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


RUWEL PETER GONZAGA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 0 2775

Introduced by REP. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

AN ACT

INCREASING AND EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE MONTHLY STIPEND OF INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

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

SECTION 1. Section 5, paragraph h, sub-paragraph 1 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

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

"(a) xxx xxx xxx

"(h) Additional Government Assistance

"(1) Social Pension

"Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to ~~Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)]~~ **ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P 1,000.00)** to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD. **PROVIDED, THAT THE MONTHLY STIPEND FOR INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL BE TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P 2,000.00) FOR THOSE WHO ARE (70) YEARS OLD AND ABOVE.**

xxx xxx xxx."

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or any parts thereof inconsistent with this ACT are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 3. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,