

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1450



Introduced by
SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SENIOR CITIZENS, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS AND OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO IMMEDIATELY DRAFT AND IMPLEMENT GUIDELINES ON THE APPLICABILITY OF SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWD) DISCOUNTS AND PRIVILEGES TO ALL ONLINE TRANSACTIONS

WHEREAS, in line with the mandate of Article XIII, Section 11 and Article XV, Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the Philippine Government enacted "the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010"¹ on 27 January 2010;

WHEREAS, the said law, granted senior citizens and PWDs, the privilege of a discount and exemption from the Value-Added Tax (VAT) in all establishments for goods and services provided therein. Furthermore, the same law provides for other special discounts and privileges aside from the above-mentioned;

WHEREAS, the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 does not make any distinctions on the applicability of its privileges between offline and online transactions. Thus, its privileges and special discounts should be made available to online transactions;

¹ Republic Act (R.A.) No. 9994, *An Act Granting Additional Benefits and Privileges to Senior Citizens, further amending R.A. No. 7432, as amended, otherwise known as "An Act to maximize the contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation Building, Grant Benefits, and Special Privileges and for Other Purposes."*


WHEREAS, due to the lack of clear guidelines in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 regarding its implementation for online transactions, most of our almost ten million senior citizens are unable to avail of the privileges and special discounts they rightfully deserve under the said law;

WHEREAS, it is critical for the government to establish the said guidelines considering that due to the risks posed by the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) Resolution No. 79,² our senior citizens are now proscribed from freely going out to purchase their food, medicine, and other basic necessities and must now rely on online platforms and transactions to be able to purchase the same;

WHEREAS, given the importance of online transactions in the everyday life and subsistence of our almost ten million senior citizens, it is imperative that establish the guidelines necessary to make the privileges and discounts they are entitled to under the above-mentioned law available to their online transactions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the appropriate committee of the House of Representatives conducts a review and investigation, in aid of legislation, to call for the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the National Commission for Senior Citizens, the National Commission on Disability Affairs, and other relevant government agencies to immediately draft and implement guidelines on the applicability of senior citizens and persons with disabilities discounts and privileges to all online transactions.

Adopted,


RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

² Section 5 (3) of Resolution No. 79, Series of 2020, 15 October 2020.