

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1959**



Introduced by

Senior Citizens Party-List Representative RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution mandates the State to design programs of social security for our elderly.¹² In consideration of this mandate, the State passed the Centenarians Act of 2016 ("Centenarians Act").¹³ However, while the motivation behind the Centenarians Act was noble, it was not enough. While the law provides a social safety net to those who reached the age of 100, those who also need it the most such as our senior citizens who reached the age of 80 do not get the opportunity to be part of its coverage. In fact, out of over 110 million Filipinos for the year 2020, only 952 of them were able to avail of the PhP 100,000 Centenarian Cash Gift¹⁴ or about 0.00000952% of the Philippine population. Furthermore, assuming they do avail of the cash gift, the limitations brought about by their age restrict them from fully enjoying it.

This situation is unfair for our elderly. Thus, this bill seeks to graduate the distribution of the centenarian cash gift and allow those aged 80 to avail of it at PhP 25,000 increments every 5 years until they reach the age of 100. Furthermore, once they reach the age of 100, our elderly will get an opportunity to again avail of the centenarian's gift of PhP 100,000. This policy will help our senior citizens truly enjoy the twilight of their lives and give them the proper recognition they deserve.

In view of this, the passage of the bill is sought.


RODOLFO "OMPONG" M. ORDANES

¹² 1987 Phil. Const., Art. XV, Sec. 4.

¹³ Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10868, 23 June 2016.

¹⁴ Philippine News Agency, *DSWD expects 952 centenarians to get P100K cash gift this year*, 23 July 2020, Retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1109854>.

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AN ACT

GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS, RECOGNIZING OCTOGENARIANS AND NONAGENARIANS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016'

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10868 is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. [Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift] **BENEFITS FOR CENTENARIANS.** – All Filipinos who reach the age of one hundred (100) years old, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honored with:

(a) A letter of felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating the celebrant [for his and her] **ON ONE'S** longevity; and

(b) A Centenarian Gift in the amount of one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)

"ALL FILIPINO CENTENARIANS WHO REACH THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED AND ONE (101) YEARS OLD SHALL RECEIVE A CASH GIFT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00) ON THEIR BIRTHDAY."

SEC. 2. A new section denominated as Section 3 of the same Act is added to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. BENEFITS FOR OCTOGENARIANS AND NONAGENARIANS. – ALL FILIPINOS WHO REACH THE AGE OF EIGHTY (80), EIGHTY-FIVE (85), NINETY (90) AND NINETY-FIVE (95) YEARS OLD SHALL ALSO RECEIVE A LETTER OF FELICITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT AND A CASH GIFT OF TWENTY-FIVETHOUSAND PESOS (P25,000.00)."

SEC. 3. Sections 3 and 4 of the same Act are renumbered as Sections 4 and 5 respectively.

SEC. 4. A new section denominated as Section 6 of the same Act is added to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. LEAD AGENCY. – THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR CITIZENS (NCSC) SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT."

SEC. 5. Section 5 of the same Act is renumbered as Section 7 and amended to read as follows:

"SEC. [5]7. [Funding. – During the initial year of the implementation of this Act, the requisite fund shall be sourced from the available funds of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and subsequently the amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act."]

"APPROPRIATIONS. – THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT."

SEC. 6. Section 6 of the same Act is renumbered as Section 8 and amended to read as follows:

"SEC. [6]8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, the [Secretaries of the DSWD] CHAIRPERSON OF THE NCSC SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, the [Department] SECRETARY of the Interior and Local Government, the [Department] SECRETARY of Health, [and] the Executive Director of the Commission on Filipino Overseas, AND THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS OFFICE, [shall] promulgate the necessary [guidelines for and shall take the lead in] RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR the effective implementation of this Act."

SEC. 7. Sections 7 and 8 of the same Act are renumbered as Sections 9 and 10 respectively.

SEC. 8. All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules or regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.