

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6419



Introduced by Representative Hon. Christopher “Toff” V.P. De Venecia

AN ACT
GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED

The Philippine Statistics Authority projects that the number of senior citizens, or Filipinos above the age of 60 is set to triple in the next thirty years, from about 7.6 million in 2015 to an estimated 22.6 million in 2045. As our country’s population gets older, the matter of securing a steady income to support the well-being of our senior citizens becomes more relevant in addressing issues of poverty and inequality. Social protection for our elderly is among the universally accepted and proven approaches in reducing incidence of poverty and in narrowing the equality gap. The current social pension received by our indigent senior citizens is no longer sufficient to answer the current rise of prices in goods and services due to inflation.

This bill, thus seeks to lessen this gap by increasing the amount of pension received by our elderly, and by expanding the social pension to cover all senior citizens instead or just our indigent elderly. This scheme is also adopted by our neighbors in the ASEAN, such as in Thailand, Brunei, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

Thus, support for this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toff De Venecia".

HON. CHRISTOPHER “TOFF” V.P. DE VENECIA
Fourth District, Pangasinan

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title* - This Act shall be known as the “Lingap Para Kay Lolo at Lola Act”

SEC. 2. - Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9267, further amended by Republic Act No. 9994, and as further amended by Republic Act No. 11916, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 20210”, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 2. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

xxx

“(I) SOCIAL PENSION REFERS TO THE **MONTHLY STIPEND** OR MONETARY GRANT FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO support THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE AND OTHER MEDICAL NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS WHICH SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND **FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 1,500.00)** PER MONTH.”

SEC. 3. Section 5 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

xxx

“(h) Additional Government Assistance

“(1) Social Pension

“[Indigent] **ALL** senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly [stipend] **SOCIAL PENSION** amounting to **AT LEAST ONE THOUSAND five hundred pesos (PHP 1,500.00)** to augment their daily subsistence and other medical needs.

THE AMOUNT OF SOCIAL PENSION SHALL BE REVIEWED, AND, WHEN NECESSARY, ADJUSTED OR INCREASED BY THE DSWD EVERY TWO YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) AND OTHER RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE VARIOUS NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS, THE NATIONAL INFLATION RATE, AND OTHER RELEVANT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, AS REPORTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE PERTINENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OR AUTHORITIES; PROVIDED, THAT THE SOCIAL PENSION SHALL NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT INITIALLY SPECIFIED IN THIS ACT.

xxx

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act..

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,