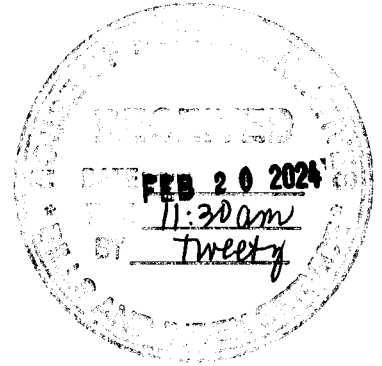




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9955**



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE “BONG” J. TEVES, JR.

**AN ACT INCREASING THE SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT FOR MEDICINES
AND OTHER HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Filipino culture embraces filial piety wherein we are expected to respect our elders and provide them care. Unlike in western and other European countries where the retired and the elderlies are left alone or in nursing homes, in our country, younger generations take the responsibility of attending the needs of our senior citizens, especially our loved ones as a way of honoring them. Likewise, we acknowledge the importance and role and contribution of our elderlies in nation building.

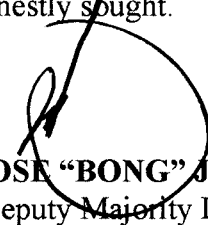
As a way of valuing our senior citizens and their contributions to our country, Congress passed Republic Act No. 7432 or the Senior Citizens Act in 1992 and was later amended by Republic Act No. 9257 and Republic Act No. 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act. The said legislations aim to provide privileges to our senior citizens which includes discount on medicines, transportation, and other consumer goods, and other benefits.

According to the latest census of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), as of 2020, the Philippines have 9.22 million senior citizens or those aged sixty and above¹. Of the said senior citizens, 914.42 thousand are aged eighty (80) and above².

It can be noted that most senior citizens are already unemployed, retired, or out of work, and may depend solely on the Social Security System (SSS) or Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) pension as source of income. This age group is most likely to be prone to age-related sickness which sometimes require expensive treatment and medicines. Likewise many of our senior citizens are uninsured, uninsurable, or insured at prohibitive cost. Although they are Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) members, Philhealth will not cover outpatient treatments, medicines, and consultation.

This measure seeks to increase the discount privilege of our senior citizens in purchasing medicines and availing medical services to thirty (30) percent for sixty to seventy-nine (60-79) years old and forty (40) percent for eighty (80) years old and older. This increase in discount will address the high cost of medicines and other health related services for our senior citizens.

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



HON. JOSE "BONG" J. TEVES, JR.
Deputy Majority Leader
Representative, TGP Party-List

¹ [https://mirror.pia.gov.ph/features/2023/10/04/honoring-the-invaluable-legacy-of-filipino-senior-citizens#:~:text=As%20of%20the%20latest%20census,Philippine%20Statistics%20Authority%20\(PSA\).](https://mirror.pia.gov.ph/features/2023/10/04/honoring-the-invaluable-legacy-of-filipino-senior-citizens#:~:text=As%20of%20the%20latest%20census,Philippine%20Statistics%20Authority%20(PSA).)

² <https://knoema.com/atlas/Philippines/topics/Demographics/Age/Population-aged-80-years>



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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **9955**

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE JOSE “BONG” J. TEVES, JR.

**AN ACT INCREASING THE SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT FOR MEDICINES
AND OTHER HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Mas Murang Gamot Para sa Senior Citizens Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – In consonance with Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution, the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution Further declares that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social security for them.

SECTION 3. Privileges for Senior Citizens. –

- (a) Senior Citizens with age from sixty (60) to seventy-nine (79) years old shall be entitled to the thirty percent (30%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable on:
- (1) the purchase of medicines, including purchase of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, and such other essential medical supplies, accessories and equipment to be determined by the Department of Health (DOH).
 - (2) the professional fees of attending physician/s in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services;
 - (3) the professional fees of licensed professional health providing home health care services as endorsed by private hospitals or employed through home health care employment agencies;
 - (4) medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and home health care services, in accordance with the rules and regulations to be issued by the DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)
- (b) Senior Citizens with age eighty (80) years old and above shall be entitled to forty percent (40%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the items and transactions provided for under subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health, in consultation with the other stakeholders, shall formulate and adopt amendments to the existing rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Amendatory Clause. – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9994 otherwise known as “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010”, as well as all laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended and modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,