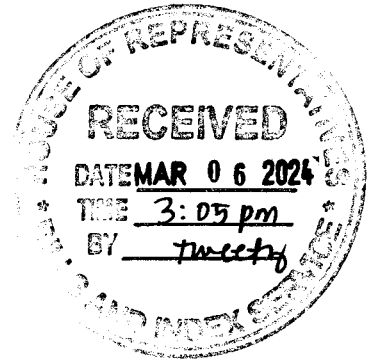


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 10052**



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Introduced by Representatives Joey Sarte Salceda, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Sergio C. Dagooc, Erwin T. Tulfo, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Teoderico T. Haresco, Jr., Allan U. Ty, Gus S. Tambunting, Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Lordan G. Suan, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Wilter Y. Palma, Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, Jose C. Alvarez, Ron P. Salo, Ray T. Reyes, Midy N. Cua, Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” R. Luistro, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Ambrocio C. Cruz, Jr., Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, and Dale B. Corvera

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**AN ACT**  
**RATIONALIZING THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES OF SENIOR CITIZENS**  
**AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs), this proposed measure seeks to consolidate benefits and rationalize existing provisions in the laws governing their rights and privileges to ensure equitable access to essential services, social welfare, and opportunities for participation for these vulnerable sectors of society.

This bill is a product of five (5) joint deliberations of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on Senior Citizens, and the Special Committee on Persons with Disabilities regarding the *motu proprio inquiry*, in aid of legislation, into the implementation gaps regarding Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, otherwise known as the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003,” and Republic Act No. 7277, as amended, otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for Persons with Disability,” and policies that provide discounts, incentives, and tax exemptions for senior citizens and PWDs.

Based on reports gathered during the Joint Committee deliberations, there are business establishments that implement inconsistent senior citizen and PWD discount policies. Instances abound where senior citizens and PWDs are denied their entitled discounts, particularly in hotels, lodging, and recreation centers.

The data submitted by the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) show that since September 2022, the Commission has received 343 complaints involving legal issues, and benefits and discounts. The NCSC reported that these concerns were forwarded by its Legal Department to the concerned Office for Senior Citizen Affairs and business establishments for resolution during the hearing on February 6, 2024.

Meanwhile, there have also been several complaints filed against various establishments for denying discounts and benefits to PWDs. The National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) received 154 complaints and inquiries regarding denied discounts in some establishments last year, while the remaining 27 were related to general inquiries as to the proper application of discounts.<sup>1</sup>

Given the foregoing, this bill represents a significant step towards promoting social justice and inclusion for senior citizens and PWDs. By rationalizing benefits and privileges, streamlining processes, and fostering an inclusive society, we uphold the dignity and rights of these vulnerable groups, affirming their rightful place as valued members of the community.

As such, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**REP. JOEY SARTE SALCEDA**

**Chairperson, Committee on Ways and Means**



**REP. RODOLFO "OMPONG" ORDANES**

**Chairperson, Committee on Senior Citizens**



**REP. ALFELITO "ALFEL" M. BASCUG**

**Chairperson, Committee on Persons with Disabilities**



**REP. YSABEL MARIA J. ZAMORA**



**REP. MILAGROS AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY**



**REP. SERGIO C. DAGOOC**



**REP. ERWIN T. TULFO**

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from the National Council on Disability Affairs dated January 22, 2023

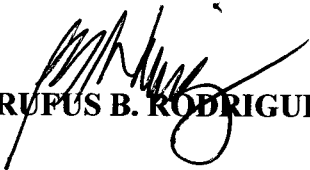
  
REP. MIKAELA ANGELA B. SUANSING

  
REP. TEODORICO T. HARESCO, JR.


  
REP. ALLAN U. TY

REP. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING

  
REP. LORDAN G. SUAN

  
REP. RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

REP. WILTER Y. PALMA

  
REP. ROSANNA "RIA" V. VERGARA


  
REP. JOSE C. ALVAREZ

  
REP. RON P. SALO

REP. RAY T. REYES

  
REP. MIDY N. CUA

REP. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

  
REP. SAMUEL S. VERZOSA, JR.

  
REP. AMBROSIO C. CRUZ, JR.

  
REP. JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO

  
REP. RAMON RODRIGUEZ L. GUTIERREZ

  
REP. DALE B. CORVERA

  
REP. MARIO VITTORIO "MARVEY" A. MARIÑO

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 10062**

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**Introduced by Representatives Joey Sarte Salceda, Rodolfo “Ompong” M. Ordanes, Alfelito “Alfel” M. Bascug, Ysabel Maria J. Zamora, Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, Sergio C. Dagooc, Erwin T. Tulfo, Mikaela Angela B. Suansing, Teoderico T. Haresco, Jr., Allan U. Ty, Gus S. Tambunting, Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Lordan G. Suan, Rufus B. Rodriguez, Wilter Y. Palma, Rosanna “Ria” V. Vergara, Jose C. Alvarez, Ron P. Salo, Ray T. Reyes, Midy N. Cua, Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” R. Luistro, Samuel S. Verzosa, Jr., Ambrocio C. Cruz, Jr., Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Ramon Rodrigo L. Gutierrez, and Dale B. Corvera**

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**AN ACT**  
**RATIONALIZING THE BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES OF SENIOR CITIZENS**  
**AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs)**

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

1           SECTION 1. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
2   acknowledge the fundamental rights of senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs),  
3   ensuring their equal access to government services, discounts, and privileges, in recognition  
4   of their invaluable contribution to society.

5           The State shall promote inclusivity, equity, and accessibility to goods and services so  
6   that senior citizens and PWDs, through standardized benefits and incentives, are afforded  
7   adequate social services, decent standard of living, and improved quality of life.

8           SEC. 2. ***Privileges for Senior Citizens and PWDs.*** – Senior citizens and PWDs shall  
9   be entitled to the following:

10          (a) Twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), in  
11          addition to any prevailing promotional offer or discount extended by business  
12          establishments, upon presentation of a valid identification card verifying the status of  
13          the Senior Citizen or PWD;

1 (b) Twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the VAT from the payment of  
2 initial rate for parking fees or charges in all establishments with public parking facilities  
3 such as malls, hospitals, hotels, and other similar places;

4 (c) The grant of fifteen percent (15%) discount relative to the monthly utilization of water  
5 and electricity supplied by public utilities: *Provided*, That the individual meters for the  
6 foregoing utilities are registered in the name of the senior citizen or PWD residing  
7 therein: *Provided, further*, That the monthly consumption does not exceed one hundred  
8 kilowatt hours (100 kWh) of electricity and thirty cubic meters (30 m3) of  
9 water: *Provided, furthermore*, That the privilege is granted per household regardless of  
10 the number of senior citizens or PWDs residing therein;

11 (d) Free postal charges on the following:

12 i. Article and literature such as books and periodicals, orthopedic and other  
13 devices, and teaching aids for the use of the senior citizens and the PWD sent  
14 by mail within the Philippines; and

15 ii. Aids and orthopedic devices for the disabled sent abroad by mail for repair;  
16 *Provided*, That the aforesaid items are for personal purposes only: *Provided*  
17 *further*, That the senior citizen or PWD is a marginalized individual as certified  
18 by the Social Welfare and Development Office of the local government unit  
19 concerned or the Department of Social Welfare and Development;

20 (e) Exemption from training fees for socioeconomic programs; and

21 (f) Additional deduction from the gross income of the employers of senior citizens and  
22 PWDs, equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of the total amount paid as salaries and  
23 wages to senior citizens and PWDs; *Provided*, that such entities present proof certified  
24 by the DOLE that the senior citizens or PWDs are under their employ.

25 SEC. 3. **Government Assistance.** - The government shall provide the following  
26 assistance to senior citizens and PWDs:

27 (a) The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall grant indigent  
28 senior citizens and PWDs a monthly stipend amounting to One thousand pesos  
29 (Php1,000.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior  
30 citizens and PWDs. The DSWD shall, in consultation with the Department of Budget  
31 and Management (DBM) and other pertinent implementing agencies, review and adjust  
32 the amount of the social pension every two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act,  
33 based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by the Philippines Statistics  
34 Authority (PSA).

1 (b) The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the PhilHealth, shall provide  
2 free medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees such as x-rays,  
3 computerized tomography scans and blood tests, to indigent senior citizens and PWDs  
4 in all government facilities;

5 (c) The DSWD, in consultation with the Technical Education and Skills Development  
6 Authority (TESDA), shall design and implement training programs that will provide  
7 senior citizens and PWDs with vocational skills to enable them to engage in livelihood  
8 activities or obtain gainful employment; and

9 (d) Local government units shall provide social safety assistance to cushion the effects of  
10 economic shocks, disasters, and calamities among senior citizens and PWDs. The social  
11 safety assistance which shall include food, medicines, and financial assistance for  
12 domicile repair, shall be sourced from the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and  
13 Management Fund of LGUs where the senior citizen or PWD resides, subject to the  
14 guidelines to be issued by the DSWD.

15 SEC. 4. *EGov PH Super App*. - The Department of Information and Communications  
16 Technology (DICT) shall incorporate a dedicated section within the eGov PH Super App  
17 platform specifically designed for Senior Citizens and PWDs, which shall include the  
18 following:

19 (a) access to various government services, including healthcare and social services;

20 (b) informational resources on their rights and benefits; and

21 (c) a user-friendly interface with adjustable text sizes, voice assistance, and other  
22 accessibility features.

23 The eGov PH SuperApp shall serve as an alternative means for Senior Citizens and  
24 PWDs to apply for their identification cards (IDs) and access any government services.

25 Senior Citizens and PWDs may continue to avail of government services and assistance  
26 through their respective local government units.

27 To ensure the implementation of this Section, the DICT shall assign an Information  
28 Officer who shall ensure that the ICT systems for Senior Citizens and PWDs are developed,  
29 implemented, secured, and compliant with standards set by the DICT, and in accordance with  
30 relevant laws, rules, and regulations, including Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as  
31 the "Data Privacy Act of 2012."

32 SEC. 5. *Alternative Identity Verification System for Senior Citizens and PWDs*. - For  
33 Senior Citizens and PWDs who do not possess the necessary IDs or cannot personally access  
34 the eGov PH SuperApp upon availment of benefits and discounts in establishments, an

1 alternative identity verification system shall be used to facilitate the grant of discounts and  
2 benefits. The alternative identity verification process shall include the following methods:

- 3 (a) personal identification through relevant information, such as full name, date of  
4 birth, address, or any other identifiable details available within the eGov PH Super  
5 App database, validated through personal inquiry by authorized personnel; or
- 6 (b) biometric verification methods, including fingerprint scanning or facial recognition,  
7 to confirm the identity of the Senior Citizen and PWD.

8 **SEC. 6. *Threshold of Discounts for Basic Necessities and Prime Commodities.*** - The  
9 total amount of discounted purchases of Senior Citizens and PWDs for basic necessities and  
10 prime commodities shall not exceed the amount of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php  
11 2,500) per calendar week without carry over of the unused amount: *Provided*, That the said  
12 amount shall be spent on items commensurate to the personal and exclusive consumption of  
13 the Senior Citizen or PWD: *Provided, further*, That said amount shall be adjusted by the DSWD  
14 every five (5) years to its present value using the CPI, as published by the PSA.

15 **SEC. 7. *Tax Administration.*** - The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) shall establish a  
16 monitoring mechanism which records transactions of business establishments involving  
17 discounted and VAT exempted goods and services availed by Senior Citizens and PWDs.

18 **SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - If any section, clause, or term of this Act is held to be  
19 illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional, such parts not affected by such declaration shall remain in  
20 full force and effect.

21 **SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - The pertinent provisions of the following laws are hereby  
22 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly:

- 23 (a) Section 4, insofar as applicability of promotional discounts, grant of discount on  
24 utilities, and exemption from training fees is concerned, and Section 5, insofar as  
25 providing Social Safety Assistance, and tax deduction granted to private companies  
26 is concerned, of Republic Act No. 9994 or the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of  
27 2010;”
- 28 (b) Sections 1 and 32, insofar as grant of discount to medical and dental services in all  
29 government facilities, and grant of discount to rehabilitation services in government  
30 hospitals and higher discount granted by the commercial establishment are  
31 concerned, of Republic Act No. 10754, entitled “An Act Expanding the Benefits  
32 and Privileges of Persons with Disability;”

1 (c) Sections 9 and 24, insofar as providing Vocational Rehabilitation, and grant of free  
2 postal charges of Republic Act No. 7277 otherwise known as the “Magna Carta for  
3 Persons with Disability are concerned;” and

4 (d) Section 2 (h)(1) of Republic Act No. 11916, entitled “An Act Increasing the Social  
5 Pension of Indigent Senior Citizens and Appropriating Funds therefor, amending  
6 for the Purpose Republic Act No. 7432.”

7 All other laws, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof, which are  
8 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified  
9 accordingly.

10 SEC. 10. ***Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
11 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12 *Approved,*