

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 4712

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Introduced by Reps. TEDDY A. CASIÑO and NERI JAVIER COLMENARES

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Senior Citizens Act of 1992, as amended, has rightfully granted to our senior citizens the privileges that they deserve after having worked hard and helped in building our nation during the prime of their lives.

However, there is a felt need to afford our senior citizens additional and better benefits than what are presently provided under our present laws, particularly during the times when their health starts to fail, yet they could no longer provide for themselves.

The proportion of the older population is rising worldwide. The same is happening in the Philippines where from 3.7 million or 5.4% of the population in 1995, the senior citizen population has increased to 5.8 million or 6.5% of the population as of 2010.

According to the Department of Health, increase in the demand for health services comes with the rise of the aging population. The agency cited a study which claimed that senior citizens are heavy consumers of personal or private health care, meaning a lot of them are forced to pay for their own health expenses.

Based on government data analyzed by Trading Economics, an international online database, the population of working senior citizens had rapidly increased from a relatively stagnant 5.6% in the 1990s to 6.8% in 2008. This, all the more, makes free hospitalization for indigent senior citizens necessary to support the Senior Citizens Act's objective to ensure that the country's senior population "attain a more meaningful and productive ageing" and fully participate in society.

In line with the core principles and objectives of the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

*Approved,*



**TEDDY A. CASIÑO**  
Bayan Muna Party-list



**NERI JAVIER COLMENARES**  
Bayan Muna Party-list

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AN ACT  
AMENDING SECTION 4 (e) OF REPUBLIC ACT 7432,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 1992,  
AS AMENDED, GRANTING FREE HOSPITALIZATION TO INDIGENT  
SENIOR CITIZENS IN ANY GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL

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

**SECTION 1.** – Section Four, Subsection (e) of Republic Act 7432, otherwise known as the Senior Citizens Act of 1992 is hereby amended to read as follows:

*“Sec. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. – The senior citizens shall be entitled the following:*

*“xxx*

*(e) Free medical and dental services in government [establishment] **HOSPITALS** anywhere in the country and **FREE HOSPITALIZATION AND CONFINEMENT FOR INDIGENT PATIENTS**, subject to guidelines to be issued by the Department of Health, the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.”*

**SEC. 2.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*