

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 71

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Representative Alfredo D. Vargas III

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Senior citizens comprise nearly seven percent of the total Filipino population with their number currently estimated at 6.263 million<sup>1</sup>. It is predicted that over time, the percentage of the elderly population in relation to the total population of the country might rise to 10%<sup>2</sup>. Out of these, only 2.15 million senior citizens receive pension from the Social Security System (SSS)<sup>3</sup>.

Under the Republic Act No. 8262, otherwise known as the Social Security Act, SSS members with at least 10 credited years of service are provided a monthly pension of Php 1,200.00, while those with 20 credited years are given Php 2,400.00.

A pension is vital in providing income security for the elderly especially for those who have no other source of income and those who still have dependents. However, given the continuous rise in the cost of living, the amount that these retirees receive are barely enough to meet their basic necessities.

This bill seeks to increase the current SSS monthly pension by Php 2,000.00 across the board. Through this, we are not only helping our retirees meet their basic needs and financial obligations but we are, in a way, rewarding their contributions to our country's development.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly urged.

  
ALFREDO D. VARGAS III

<sup>1</sup> 2010 Census of Population and Housing

<sup>2</sup> Evangelista, Rafael. (2015) *Time for senior citizens to fight for our rights*. Rappler. Available at: <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/ispeak/106840-ph-senior-citizens-rights> [28 October 2015]

<sup>3</sup> The Coalition of the Services for the Elderly. (2015) *Advocates call for improved security pension for Pinoys*. Rappler. Available at: <http://www.rappler.com/move-ph/107863-older-activists-improved-old-age-pension-every-filipino> [29 June 2016].

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AN ACT

**MANDATING A TWO THOUSAND PESO (P2,000.00) ACROSS-THE-BOARD INCREASE IN THE MONTHLY PENSION WITH CORRESPONDING ADJUSTMENT OF THE MINIMUM MONTHLY PENSION UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997'**

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

**SECTION 1.** Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, the Social Security Commission is hereby mandated to implement a Two Thousand Peso (P2,000.00) across-the-board in the monthly pension under the Social Security System.

**SECTION 2.** Section 12 of Republic Act No. 1161, as amended by Republic Act No. 8282, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. Monthly Pension. – (a) The monthly pension shall be the highest of the following amounts:

"(1) The sum of the following:

"(i) Three Hundred pesos (P300.00); plus

"(ii) Twenty percent (20%) of the average monthly salary credit; plus

"(iii) Two percent (2%) of the average monthly salary credit for each credited year of service in excess of ten years; or

"(2) Forty percent (40%) of the average monthly salary credit; or

"(3) One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) : *Provided*, That the monthly pension shall in no case be paid for an aggregate amount of less than sixty (60) months.

"(b) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the minimum **MONTHLY** pension shall be **THREE THOUSAND TWO PESOS (P3,200.00)** [One thousand two hundred pesos (P1,200.00)] for members with at least ten (10) credited years of service and **FOUR THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED PESOS (P4,400.00)**[Two thousand four hundred pesos (P2,400.00)] for those with twenty years of service.

**SECTION 3.** Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*