

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 534

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by REP. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide additional benefits to senior citizens by granting discounted payments on court fees, legal services and attorneys' fees in criminal, civil and administrative cases.

Article XV, Section 4 of the Constitution states that, "*The family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security.*" It is further reiterated in Article XIII, Section 11 of the Constitution that.... "*There shall be priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children.*"

Under Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010," a twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value added tax (VAT), if applicable, on goods and services from all establishments, are given to senior citizens. Further, it provides for discounts on the professional fees of attending physicians in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services, among others. Senior citizens are also extended government assistance in employment, education, health, social services, housing and foster care. They are also granted social pension, mandatory PhilHealth coverage and other social safety nets.

While the law gives senior citizens indispensable benefits to allow them to enjoy their twilight years, there seems to be something lacking as far as addressing their legal needs in cases wherein they are involved in disputes, subjected to fraud, suffered ill-treatment, and similar cases. The elderly deserves to avail of the services of a lawyer of their preference, aside from those offered for free by public attorneys.

Giving the highest priority to the elderly to live their lives to the fullest in comfort and worry-free environment, paragraph (a) Section 4 of RA 7432 is hereby amended by adding subparagraph (10) to address their needs with regards legal matters.

In view of the foregoing considerations, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

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HOUSE BILL NO. 534

Introduced by REP. RUWEL PETER S. GONZAGA

AN ACT
PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED,
ENTITLED "AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO
NATION-BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. *Privileges for the Senior Citizens.* – The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

(a) The grant of twenty percent (20%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of the following goods and services from all establishments, for the exclusive use and enjoyment or availment of senior citizens:

(1) xxx

xxx

xxx

xxx

(10) ON COURT FEES, LEGAL SERVICES AND ATTORNEY FEES IN ALL CASES OF WHICH THEY ARE THE RESPONDENTS OR AGGRIEVED PARTIES, SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES TO BE ISSUED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,