Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City  

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  

HOUSE BILL NO. 2480  

Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D.  

AN ACT  
REDEFINING THE TERM "INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZEN" UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432,  
AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED  
SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"  

EXPLANATORY NOTE  

Article XIII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution provides that, "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. The State  
shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."  

The Constitution also states in Article XV, Section 4 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."  

Republic Act 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 provides an array of benefits,  
privileges and assistance to senior citizens such as a twenty-percent (20%) discount and exemption  
from the value-added tax (VAT), if applicable, on the sale of some goods and services; death benefit  
assistance; educational assistance; free medical and dental services; and exemption from training fees  
for socioeconomic programs, among others.  

It also grants indigent senior citizens additional privileges such as free vaccines, social pension  
and mandatory Philhealth coverage. An "indigent senior citizen" is defined under the law as any elderly  
who is frail, sickly or with disability, and without pension or permanent source of income, compensation  
or financial assistance from his/her relatives to support his/her basic needs, as determined by the  
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with the National Coordinating  
and Monitoring Board.  

Said definition excludes senior citizens who are not sick or disabled and who have pension or  
other sources of income but who are nonetheless in dire need of additional government assistance in  
the face of steep price of basic commodities and medical services.  

This measure, which was approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives on May  
25, 2015; seeks to make a more inclusive definition of “indigent senior citizen” by removing the  
physical requirements and requirement of financial assistance by a senior citizen’s relatives. Hence,  
more senior citizens will feel more secure during the remaining years of their lives because of the  
guarantee that they will have the ready access to financial assistance and health services.  

In view thereof, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.  

ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.  
4th District, Quezon
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 2, sub-paragraph h of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act
No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", is hereby further amended
to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

"xxx

"(h) Indigent senior citizen refers to any elderly who is [frail, sickly or with disability, and]
without pension, [or] permanent source of income, OR compensation [or financial assistance from
his/her relatives] to support [his/her] THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S basic needs, as determined by the
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in consultation with the National Coordinating
and Monitoring Board."

SEC. 2. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are
inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or
in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,