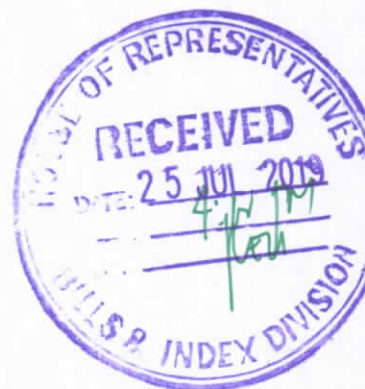




Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



**Eighteenth Congress**

**First Regular Session**

**House Bill No. 2853**

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Introduced by

**HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ and  
HON. DAVID C. SUAREZ**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Senior Citizens are custodians of our culture worthy of emulation. They are the repository of life's lessons as experienced by them, and thus are a reliable source not only of knowledge, but more importantly, of wisdom.

Senior citizens also play a significant role in the social fabric of our society. Though they may be weak in body, their strength of experience can act as a lighthouse for policy makers. Even at their age, they contribute to the economy informally, such as by caring for their grandchildren to enable the parents to go to work.

However, there is still a significant number of older people living in poverty today. Given that majority of senior citizens lack healthcare insurance and aggravated by high cost of medical services, most of them have been fully dependent on government medical subsidy. In the Philippines, communicable diseases are still widespread and considering the weak resistance of the senior citizen, they have been more likely to suffer due to poverty and limited access and inadequate health services.

The 1987 Constitution mandates that in the endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost, the State shall give priority to the underprivileged, including the elderly. Pursuant

thereto, Republic Act No. 7432, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257 and Republic Act No. 9994, were successively enacted. The salient feature of the law is the provision of privileges in the form of discount (20%) in the purchasing of medicines and basic commodities for the personal use and enjoyment of the senior citizen, transportation fares, as well as access to recreational facilities.

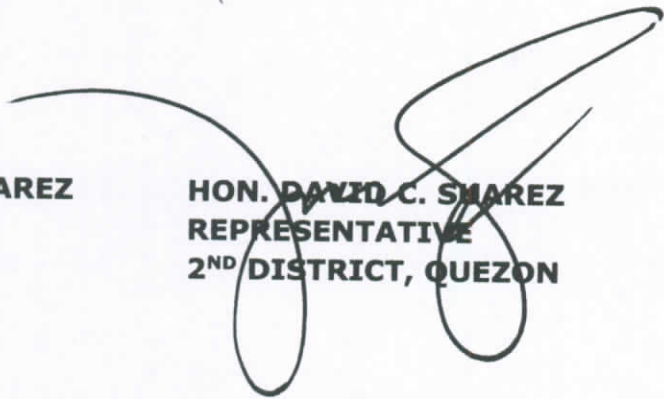
But in this day, the inflation rate increases the price of all commodities - transport, food, clothing, housing, electricity, education, logistics, and health medication - and has a big impact in the life of Filipino people especially those who are poor, including indigent senior citizens. Thus, the need to further expand the existing benefits given to senior citizens under existing laws to enable them to cope up with the needs of the times.

This bill seeks to lessen the burden of senior citizens as occasioned by recent socio-economic developments in the country by increasing the discount granted to them in their purchases and availment of goods and services as provided by existing laws from twenty percent (20%) to thirty percent (30%).

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



**HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**  
**ALONA PARTYLIST**



**HON. DAVID C. SUAREZ**  
**REPRESENTATIVE**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, QUEZON**



Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**Eighteenth Congress**

**First Regular Session**

2853

**House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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Introduced by

**HON. ANNA MARIE VILLARAZA-SUAREZ and  
HON. DAVID C. SUAREZ**

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**AN ACT  
INCREASING THE GRANT GIVEN TO SENIOR CITIZENS FROM TWENTY  
PERCENT (20%) TO THIRTY PERCENT (30%) DISCOUNT ON PURCHASES  
OF CERTAIN GOODS AND SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN 'ACT  
TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION  
BUILDING, GRANT OF 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 by Republic Act No. 9257, otherwise known as the 'Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2003', and Republic Act No. 9994, , otherwise known as the 'Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010', is hereby further amended to read as follows:

**SECTION 4.** Privileges for the Senior Citizens. -

The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

- (a) the grant of [~~twenty percent (20%)~~] **THIRTY PERCENT (30%)** 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 the senior citizens :

xxxxx

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**SECTION 2. Repealing Clause** – All laws, issuances, executive orders, and rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 3. Effectivity Clause** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved.**