

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**

First Regular Session

House Bill No: **3647**



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**Introduced by REP. MERCEDES C. CAGAS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to provide additional benefits and privileges to all senior citizens.

Section 4. Article XV of the 1987 Constitution provides that

*"Section 4. The Family has the duty to care for its elderly members but the State may also do so through just programs of social security."*

Senior citizens have contributed to our society during the prime of their lives. They have sacrificed much so that we may now enjoy the fruits of their labor. In any culture, respect for elders is paramount. This value should be reflected in our laws. While we may have granted privileges in the past, it is still woefully inadequate considering the diminishing number of senior citizens and their thinning time left to enjoy such rewards. Hence, this bill seeks to further reward them in their twilight years.

While the amendments may cover a comprehensive set of privileges, it is but a small memento of our appreciation for their sacrifice. Discounts on court fees, vehicle registration fees, real property tax, and PRC renewal fees are just small tokens for their usual expenditures. Provision of free annual physical examination, parking, exemption from color-coding and no-wait rule in establishments are also meant to ensure their enjoyment and physical relaxation. All told, these benefits are economical ways of rewarding our senior citizens and shows to the world what kind of people the Filipinos are, especially towards their elders.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is highly recommended.

  
**MERCEDES C. CAGAS**



(e) free medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory [fees] TESTS, such as, but not limited to, ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, x-rays, computerized tomography scans, CARDIAC STRESS TEST, ENDOSCOPY, ULTRASOUND ON KIDNEYS, URETER AND BLADDER, PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST and blood test, INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL FEES OF ATTENDING PHYSICIANS, in all government HEALTH CARE facilities, subject to the guidelines to be issued by the DOH in coordination with the PhilHealth.

IN THE AVAILMENT OF THE ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, THE INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS SHALL HAVE PREFERENCE OVER NON-INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE ORDER THEY SHALL BE SERVED.

(f) FREE PARKING IN ALL COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THEIR NAMES.

(g) EXEMPTION FROM COLOR-CODING OR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC REDUCTION PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR VEHICLES WHERE SENIOR CITIZENS ARE PASSENGERS.

(h) NO-WAIT-RULE IN ALL ESTABLISHMENTS.

SEC.2. Section 11 of the same Act, is her by amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 11, Appropriations – the necessary appropriations for the operation and maintenance of the OSCA shall be appropriated and approved by the LGUs concerned. For national government agencies, the requirements to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in their respective budgets: Provided, That the funds to be used for the national health program, INCLUDING THE ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, and for the vaccination of senior citizens in the first year of implementations shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DOH and thereafter, as a line item under the DOH budget in the subsequent General Appropriations Act (GAA). Provided, further that the monthly social pension for indigent senior citizens in the first year of implementation shall be added to the regular appropriations of the DSWD and thereafter as a line item under the DSWD budget in the subsequent GAA.”

SEC.3. The relevant government agencies shall draft the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC.4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official gazette or in two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,