

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4373



Introduced by Hon. Julienne "Jam" L. Baronda

EXPLANATORY NOTE


This bill seeks to amend the Centenarian Act of 2016.

People all over the world are living longer. Research shows that senior citizens or those aged 60 years old and higher made up 6.8% of the 92.1 million population in 2010. The proportion of persons aged 60 years old and above will be expected to increase from 5.7% of the population in 2010 to 10.0% in 2030.¹ Some of the factors seen to be influencing healthy aging are the improvement of our healthcare system, technology, and nutrition.

The sad reality, however, is that not all of our senior citizens are situated in a supportive environment sympathetic to their age nor do they have access to these basic services. As a result, most of them do not live longer than they would have had they been in a better environment.

In view of these circumstances and to give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly, this bill will amend the system of awarding the Centenarian gift. This bill will award the Centenarian gift in three instalments. The first instalment at the age of 80 years old, the second at 90 years old, and the last instalment at the age of 100. Through this, not only do we honour our senior citizens for their achieved longevity but we also aid them financially.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


JULIENNE "JAM" L. BARONDA
Representative
Lone District of Iloilo City

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority: The Age and Sex Structure of the Philippine Population: Facts from the 2010 Census.

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AN ACT MODIFYING THE AWARD OF THE CENTANARIAN GIFT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 2, 3, AND 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CENTENARIAN ACT OF 2016.

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

Section 1. Section 2, 3, and 4 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Centenarian Act of 2016 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 2. Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift – All Filipinos, whether residing in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honoured with:

- (a) A Letter of Felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating the celebrant for his or her longevity; and
- (b) A partial amount of the Centenarian Gift in the amount of twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000.00) to those aged eighty (80) years old, another twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000.00) upon reaching the age of ninety (90) years old, and finally, fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) upon reaching the age of one hundred (100) years old.

Section 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Centenarian Act of 2016 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. Older Surviving and Deceased Centenarians. – All living filipino citizens who reached the above required age prior to the effectivity of Republic Act 10868 shall be honoured on the celebration of the first National Respect for Centenarians Day or on hundred days after the effectivity of this Act, whichever comes earlier, in appropriate ceremonies which shall be observed as a national event. They shall each be awarded a plaque of recognition and the Centenarian gift referred to in Section 2 hereof. In the same event, posthumous plaques of recognition in honour of deceased centenarians shall be presented to the nearest surviving relative of each centenarian.

Section 3. National Respect for Centenarians Day. – As part of the annual Elderly Filipino Week, October 1 to 7, the first Sunday of October is hereby declared as National Respect for Centenarians Day During which, all Filipinos who have turned centenarian and those who have reached the age required above shall be awarded a plaque of recognition and a cash incentive by their respective city or municipal governments in appropriate ceremonies in addition to the Letter of Felicitation and Centenarian Gift provided in Section 2 hereof. The local government unit concerned shall determine the amount of cash incentive.”

Section 2. Repealing Clause.— All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity.— 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, which shall not be later than seven (7) days after the approval thereof.

Approved,