Republic Act No. 9994 or the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010” provides, in Sec 3, that:

“(h) Indigent senior citizen, refers to 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.”

The same law also provides in Sec 5:

(h) Additional Government Assistance

“1 Social Pension

“Indigent senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to Five hundred pesos (Php500.00) to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD.

As a result, what is happening now is that many senior citizens are being deprived of the social pension they are entitled to because of the very restrictive provision of the law.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show that there are at least 7.5 million senior citizens in the Philippines based on their latest census. In 2016, only a little above a quarter of senior citizens (29%) received pensions based on previous working history (SSS, GSIS and other pensions).

This bill seeks to amend the current law and ensure that all senior citizens will receive pension from any source. The restrictive provision of being indigent should be removed. The objective of the law is to recognize the rights of senior citizens to take their proper place in society and make it a concern of the family, community, and government and to give full support to the improvement of the total well-being of the elderly and their full participation in society, considering that senior citizens are integral part of Philippine society.

This bill also aims to increase the monthly pension that senior citizens will receive.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ
AN ACT
GRANTING UNIVERSAL SOCIAL PENSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY RA 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010"

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

SECTION 1. Number (1), Paragraph (H), Section 5 of the 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:

"Section 5. Government Assistance. – The government shall provide the following:

XXX XXX XXX

(h) Additional Government Assistance

(1) Social Pension

"[Indigent] ALL senior citizens shall be entitled to a monthly stipend amounting to [Five hundred pesos (Php500.00)] ONE THOUSAND PESOS to augment the daily subsistence and other medical needs of senior citizens, subject to a review every two (2) years by Congress, in consultation with the DSWD[]: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH SENIOR CITIZEN DOES NOT RECEIVE A PENSION OF MORE THAN FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (PHP4,000.00) FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM"

XXX XXX XXX

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,