

SENATE

S. B. No. 3328



Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Statistical Coordination Board reports that as of 2006 the life expectancy of Filipino men at birth is 66.1 and women --- 71.6. For a country with 100 million people, only a tiny fraction of the Philippine population lives to 100 years old. Based on a 2010 census released by the National Statistics Office, the estimated number of Filipinos who have lived over 100 is 8,000 or .008 percent.

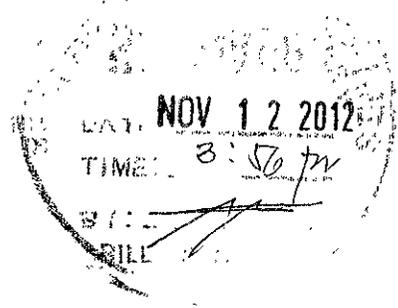
Living to a hundred years old is a rarity in this day and age. With the modern lifestyle and ways of many Filipinos, maintaining a healthy and active life has become a challenge. Illnesses and diseases associated with modern lifestyle cause death. And based on an article written by Bernard Choi in the J Epidemiol Community Health 2005, the "human race will be pushed towards a primary cause of death from 'diseases of comfort' (such as those chronic diseases caused by obesity and physical inactivity), due to technological advance."

It is the intention of the bill therefore to provide incentives to the Filipino centenarians and to honor individuals who have lived to a hundred and over, considering that this event is in fact a reason for great celebration. Government should lead the country in paying respect to Filipino centenarians and according them the necessary assistance they need. With the dwindling centenarian population in the country, the living to a hundred years is a milestone worth celebrating.

Hence, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN



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AN ACT HONORING AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS, DECLARING THE 25TH OF SEPTEMBER AS NATIONAL RESPECT FOR CENTENARIANS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Centenarians Act of
2 2012."

3

4 SEC. 2. *Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift.*- Upon reaching one hundredth
5 (100th) birthday, every Filipino residing in the Philippines or abroad shall be
6 honored with:

7

8 (a) A letter of felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating
9 the celebrant for his or her longevity; and

10 (b) A Centenarian's Gift in the amount of One hundred thousand pesos
11 (PhP100,000.00;

12

13 SEC. 3. *National Respect for Centenarians Day.* - As part of the annual Family
14 Week celebration from September 19 to 28, the 25th of September is hereby
15 declared as National Respect for Centenarians Day during which all Filipinos
16 who have turned centenarian in the current fiscal year shall be awarded a plaque
17 of recognition and a cash incentive by their respective city or municipal
18 governments in appropriate ceremonies in addition to the recognition and cash
19 gift provided in the preceeding paragraph. The amount of the cash incentive
20 shall be determined by the concerned local government unit.

21

22 SEC. 4. *Older Surviving and Deceased Centenarians.* - All living centenarians
23 who reached their one hundredth (100th) birthday prior to the effectivity of this Act
24 shall be honored on the celebration of the first National Respect for Centenarians

1 Day or one hundred twenty (120) days after the effectivity of this Act, whichever
2 comes earlier, in appropriate ceremonies which shall be observed as national
3 event. They shall each be awarded a plaque of recognition and the
4 Centenarian's Gift referred to in Section 2 hereof. In the same event,
5 posthumous plaques of recognition in honor of deceased centenarians shall be
6 presented to the nearest surviving relative of each centenarian or his/her
7 representative.

8
9 SEC. 5. *Release of Centenarian's Gift.* The National Committee shall ensure
10 the release of the Centenarian Gift not later than thirty (30) days from the date of
11 birth, after sufficient compliance of establishing the true birth year of the
12 centenarian.

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14 SEC. 6. *Additional Benefits.* - All centenarians shall be entitled to the grant of fifty
15 percent (50%) discount and exemption from the value-added tax (VAT), if
16 applicable, on the sale of goods and services from all establishments, for the
17 exclusive use and enjoyment or availment of senior citizens.

18
19 SEC. 7. *Funding.* - During the initial year of the implementation of this Act, the
20 requisite funds shall be sourced from the unexpended appropriations of the
21 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in the General
22 Appropriations Act of 2012 and subsequently the amount necessary to
23 implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General
24 Appropriations Act.

25
26 SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within thirty (30) days from the
27 organization, a National Committee composed of the Executive Secretary as
28 Chairperson, the respective Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and
29 Local Government, the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the
30 Department of Health, and the Executive Director of the Commission of Filipinos
31 Overseas as members, shall promulgate the necessary guidelines for and shall
32 make the lead in the effective implementation of this Act.

33
34 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432 as amended by
35 Republic Act No. 9257 and further amended by Republic Act. 9994 or the
36 "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010" is hereby amended accordingly. All
37 laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with any
38 provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

39

1 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation which shall not
3 be later than seven (7) days after the approval thereof.

Approved.