

**SENATE**

**S.B. No. 1951**

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**INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RISA HONTIVEROS**

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**AN ACT**

**GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO FILIPINO CENTENARIANS,  
RECOGNIZING OCTOGENARIANS AND NONAGENARIANS, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'CENTENARIANS ACT  
OF 2016'**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Senior citizens are an integral part of our society with their significant contribution to the labor force, families, and the state by performing their civic duties. In 2020, the Philippines had 9.22M senior citizens as part of our population with half of them actively contributing to the workforce.<sup>1</sup> The State's appreciation and support of our senior citizens, aligned with the 1987 Philippine Constitution Articles XIII and XV declares the state's responsibility to adopt policies that ensure the social security and health of the elderly people, culminated in the Republic Act No. 10868 or the Centenarians Act of 2016. This act grants centenarians ₱100,000, a Letter of Felicitation, and other benefits from their respective Local Government Units.

The potential beneficiaries of the Centenarians Act of 2016, remain limited because most of the elderly population do not become centenarians. Therefore, this bill, also inspired by the concept of healthy and active aging aims to amend the Act to provide senior citizens with greater assistance. Many senior citizens live in poverty and suffer from poor health; a 2018 study found that 46% of senior citizens live under the poverty line.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, most senior citizens do not enjoy some form of pension mechanism.<sup>3</sup> Even with the slowing down of the COVID-19 pandemic, the elderly's exacerbated predicaments remain as many seniors struggle to access sufficient food, medicine, and income.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bonquin, Carolyn. "POPCOM official suggests raising retirement age, more care programs for elderly amid ageing population." *CNN Philippines*. 2022 <https://www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2022/8/17/POPCOM-retirement-age-care-programs-elderly.html>; Jaymalin, Mayen. "Nearly Half Of 9 Million Elderly Still Working, Poor." *One News*. October 2022, <https://www.onenews.ph/articles/nearly-half-of-9-m-elderly-still-working-poor>

<sup>2</sup> Jaymalin, Mayen. "Nearly Half Of 9 Million Elderly Still Working, Poor." *One News*. October 2022, <https://www.onenews.ph/articles/nearly-half-of-9-m-elderly-still-working-poor>; Cahapay, Michael. "Senior Citizens during Covid-19 Crisis in the Philippines: Enabling Laws, Current Issues, and Shared Efforts." *Research on Ageing and Social Policy*, vol. 9, no.2, 2021 p. 11.

<sup>3</sup> Castillo, Pleene Garcia J. Provision of Care for Filipino Older Persons and Responding to the Needs of Aging Societies. Philippine Statistics Authority. 2019, [https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/unpd\\_egm\\_201902\\_s8\\_pleneegracecastillo.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/unpd_egm_201902_s8_pleneegracecastillo.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Jaymalin, Mayen. "Nearly Half Of 9 million Elderly Still Working, Poor." *One News*. 2022 <https://www.onenews.ph/articles/nearly-half-of-9-m-elderly-still-working-poor>; Cahapay, Michael. "Senior Citizens during Covid-19 Crisis in the Philippines: Enabling Laws, Current Issues, and Shared Efforts." *Research on Ageing and Social Policy*, vol. 9, no.2, 2021 pp. 11-12.

Considering the hardship our senior citizens are facing, this bill aims to expand the benefits of the Centenarians Act of 2016 to include octogenarians, nonagenarians, and increase the cash gift provided to centenarians. This would benefit the elderly population by providing them with needed funds and motivating them continue to live productive lives.

The passage of this measure is thus earnestly sought.

*Risa Montiveros*  
**RISA HONTIVEROS**

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AN ACT  
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RECOGNIZING OCTOGENARIANS AND NONAGENARIANS, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'CENTENARIANS ACT  
OF 2016'

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 10868 is amended to read as follows:

2 "SEC. 2. [Letter of Felicitation and Cash Gift] **BENEFITS FOR CENTENARIANS.**

3 – All Filipinos who reach the age of one hundred (100) years old, whether residing  
4 in the Philippines or abroad, shall be honored with:

5 (a) A letter of felicitation from the President of the Philippines congratulating  
6 the celebrant [for his and her] **ON ONE'S** longevity **AND**  
7 **CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY;** and

8 (b) A Centenarian Gift in the amount of one hundred thousand pesos  
9 (P100,000.00)

10 **"ALL FILIPINO CENTENARIANS WHO REACH THE AGE ONE**  
11 **HUNDRED AND ONE (101) YEARS OLD SHALL RECEIVE A CASH**  
12 **GIFT IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION OF PESOS**  
13 **(P1,000,000.00) ON THEIR BIRTHDAY."**

14 Sec. 2. A new section denominated as Section 3 of the same Act is added to read  
15 as follows:

16 **"SEC. 3. BENEFITS FOR OCTOGENARIANS AND NONAGENARIANS. – ALL**  
17 **FILIPINOS WHO REACH THE AGE OF EIGHTY (80), EIGHTY-FIVE (85),**  
18 **NINETY (90) AND NINETY-FIVE (95) YEARS OLD SHALL ALSO RECEIVE**  
19 **A LETTER OF FELICITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT AND A CASH GIFT**  
20 **OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000.00)."**

21 Sec. 3. Sections 3 and 4 of the same Act are renumbered as Sections 4 and 5  
22 respectively.

23 Sec. 4. A new section denominated as Section 6 of the same Act is added to read  
24 as follows:

25 **"SEC. 6. LEAD AGENCY. – THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF SENIOR**  
26 **CITIZENS (NCSC) SHALL IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT."**

27 Sec. 5. Section 5 of the same Act is renumbered as Section 7 and amended to read  
28 as follows:

1 "SEC. [5]7. [Funding. – During the initial year of the implementation of this Act,  
2 the requisite fund shall be sourced from the available funds of the Department of  
3 Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and subsequently the amount necessary  
4 to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
5 Appropriations Act."]

6 **"APPROPRIATIONS. – THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR**  
7 **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE**  
8 **ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.**

9 Sec. 6. Section 6 of the same Act is renumbered as Section 8 and amended to read  
10 as follows: 14

11 "SEC. [6]8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within thirty (30) days from  
12 the effectivity of this Act, the [Secretaries of the DSWD] **CHAIRPERSON OF THE**  
13 **NCSC SHALL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARY OF SOCIAL**  
14 **WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT,** the [Department] **SECRETARY** of the Interior  
15 and Local Government, the [Department] **SECRETARY** of Health, [and] the  
16 Executive Director of the Commission on Filipino Overseas, **AND**  
17 **THE UNDERSECRETARY OF THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS OFFICE,** [shall]  
18 promulgate the necessary [guidelines for and shall take the lead in] **RULES AND**  
19 **REGULATIONS FOR** the effective implementation of this Act."

20 Sec. 7. Sections 7 and 8 of the same Act are renumbered as Sections 9 and 10  
21 respectively.

22 Sec. 8. All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, executive orders, letters of  
23 instruction, rules or regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the  
24 provisions of this Act are repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

25 Sec. 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*  
26 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,