

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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SENATE
S. B. No. 1517

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
PROVIDING SENIOR CITIZENS FREE MOVIE ACCESS TO ALL MOVIE
THEATERS NATIONWIDE AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our senior citizens are the repository of the country's history and a living testimony of our people's legacy. In recognition of their value, it is proper for the government to provide measures that will enable senior citizens to enjoy their twilight years.

In the Philippines, senior citizens as defined under Republic Act (RA) No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", are those aged 60 years or over. Based on the 2015 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), there are 7,548,769 senior citizens in the Philippines, or 7.5% of the total population. The PSA projected that the share of senior citizens to total population will increase to 11.4% by 2030, and to 15.9% by 2045.¹ Moreover, 42.1% of the senior citizens population in 2015 were categorized

¹ Celia M. Reyes, Arkin A. Arboneda, and Ronina D. Asis, Silver Linings for the Elderly in the Philippines: Policies and Programs for Senior Citizens, September 2019, p.4. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1909.pdf>. Accessed on April 21, 2020.

as gainful workers, 22.3% as pensioners, retired, and disabled, 20.8% as housekeepers, and 14.8% as dependents.²

With the increasing number of senior citizens in the country and the decline in their productive capacity that exposes them to various vulnerabilities, the State must guarantee that this sector is not condemned to oblivion. The government must be ready to respond appropriately to the unique challenges and demands they encounter. Since the adoption of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, several laws have been passed promoting and upholding the rights of our senior citizens, such as: RA No. 7432 or “An Act to Maximize the Contribution of Senior Citizens to Nation-building”; RA No. 9994 or the “Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010” which further amended RA No. 7432 which grants benefits and special privileges to Senior Citizens; and RA No. 10868 or the “Centenarian Act of 2016”.

This bill seeks to provide senior citizens greater support in raising and developing their artistic and cultural awareness, nourishing their souls, and uplifting their spirits in their twilight years. Several local government units have already passed ordinances granting the free admission of senior citizens to movie theatres, but this privilege is limited and discretionary on the part of the LGUs concerned. This proposed measure will make the privilege nationwide in scope and mandatory in application.

With our country’s aspiration of ensuring that the well-being, self-worth and quality of life of our elderly are maintained, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

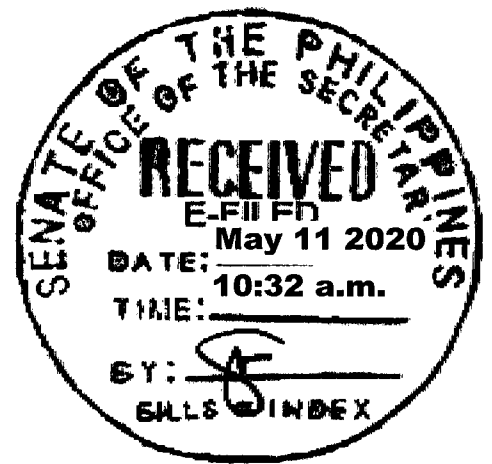


WIN GATCHALIAN

² *Ibid.*

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Free Movies for
2 *Senior Citizens Act*”.

3

4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policies and Objectives.* – The 1987 Philippine
5 Constitution declares as policy of the State the promotion of a just and
6 dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity of the nation and free
7 the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social
8 services and an improved quality of life. It further declares under Article XV,
9 Section 4 that it is the duty of the family to take care of its elderly members
10 while the State may design programs of social security for them.

11 Consistent with these constitutional policies, this Act seeks to achieve
12 the following objectives:

- 1 (a) To recognize the rights of senior citizens and their proper place
2 in society, not only in terms of health care and related services but
3 also in the improvement of their well-being and quality of life;
- 4 (b) To motivate and encourage senior citizens to contribute to
5 nation-building through the enhancement of their artistic faculties
6 and exposure to cultural activities;
- 7 (c) To encourage families and communities to reaffirm the Filipino
8 tradition of valuing and caring for our senior citizens; and
- 9 (d) To recognize the important role of the private sector in the
10 improvement of the welfare of senior citizens and actively seek their
11 partnership.

12
13 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following
14 terms and phrases shall apply:

- 15 (a) *Free Movie Privilege* refers to the absolute privilege granted to
16 senior citizens under this Act. The term “free” shall mean that
17 fees, charges, and taxes of all kinds shall not be imposed.
- 18 (b) *Movie Theater* refers to a theater, cinema or movie house where
19 films are shown. The commercial operations of this type of
20 establishment are in the form of selling movie tickets for
21 purchase of the general public. For purposes of this Act, the
22 term includes only regular movie theaters, expressly excluding
23 premium establishments such as 3D, 4D, IMAX, or director's
24 club theaters and cinemas. The privilege also does not cover
25 special events such as sponsored movie premiers, pay per view
26 showing, and other similar movie screenings that cater to
27 special productions.
- 28 (c) *Senior Citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at
29 least sixty (60) years old.

30

1 Sec. 4. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all movie
2 theaters in the country and may be availed of by all senior citizens
3 nationwide.

4
5 Sec. 5. *Free Movie Privilege; Availment and Non-transferability.* – The
6 free movie privilege shall be non-transferable and exclusively given to senior
7 citizens upon their personal presentation of a duly issued Senior Citizens
8 Identification (ID) Card. Allowing another person to use one’s ID shall result
9 in the revocation of the free movie privilege under this Act.

10 Senior citizens shall be entitled once a week to the free movie privilege
11 unless the movie theater where they seek admission to has extended the free
12 movie privilege more than once a week. Every free movie access ticket shall
13 be valid only for a single viewing.

14
15 Sec. 6. *Local Government Units and Compliance Monitoring of Movie*
16 *Theaters.* – Local government units (LGUs) in their respective territorial
17 jurisdictions shall ensure the implementation of this Act in movie theaters
18 within their localities. Each movie theater shall be required to provide an
19 official monitoring sheet where senior citizens shall register and write their
20 full names, signatures, and Senior Citizens ID numbers every time they avail
21 of the privilege. The LGUs shall require movie theaters to submit such
22 monitoring sheets and other relevant reports as proof of compliance.

23
24 Sec. 7. *Penalty Clause.* – Any movie theater operator who fails to
25 comply with the provisions of this Act shall be meted a fine of Twenty
26 Thousand Pesos (PhP 20,000.00) for every violation.

27
28 Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of
29 Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the Department of
30 Social Welfare and Development and other relevant stakeholders, shall
31 promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this

1 Act. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section
2 shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a newspaper of
3 general circulation.

4

5 Sec. 9. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation
6 of this Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current
7 appropriations of the LGUs. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its
8 continued implementation shall be included in the General Appropriations
9 Act.

10

11 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or provision of this
12 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not
13 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

14

15 Sec. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, acts, presidential decrees,
16 executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts
17 thereof inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby
18 modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

19

20 Sec. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,