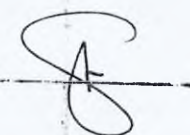


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**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
First Regular Session

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RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

S.B. No. 1152

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. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) May 2020 Census data, there were 12,336,355 Filipinos aged 60 years old and over. The total number of senior citizens was 11.31 percent of the country's estimated total population based on the 2020 Census of Population and Housing.¹ Moreover, according to the PSA, the poverty incidence among the seniors in the country is estimated at 9.1% in 2018.²

¹ Philippine Daily Inquirer. <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1497408/ph-senior-citizens-in-a-time-of-pandemic>

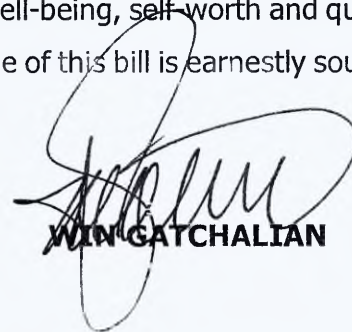
² Philippine Statistics Authority.

<https://psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/Table%204.%20Poverty%20Incidence%20and%20Magnitude%20of%20Poor%20Senior%20Citizens%2C%20by%20Region%2C%202015%20and%202018.xlsx>

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; RA No. 10868 or the "Centenarian Act of 2016"; and RA No. 11350 or the "National Commission of Senior Citizens Act".

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

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**AN ACT
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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 Senior
2 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 dynamic social
6 order that will ensure the prosperity of the nation and free the people from poverty
7 through policies that provide adequate social services and an improved quality of life.
8 It further declares under Article XV, Section 4 that it is the duty of the family to take
9 care of its elderly members while the State may design programs of social security for
10 them.

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

13 (a) To recognize the rights of senior citizens and their proper place in society,
14 not only in terms of health care and related services but also in the improvement of
15 their well-being and quality of life;

1 (b) To motivate and encourage senior citizens to contribute to nation-building
2 through the enhancement of their artistic faculties and exposure to cultural activities;

3 (c) To encourage families and communities to reaffirm the Filipino tradition of
4 valuing and caring for our senior citizens; and

5 (d) To recognize the important role of the private sector in the improvement of
6 the welfare of senior citizens and actively seek their partnership.

7
8 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the following terms and
9 phrases shall apply:

10 (a) *Free Movie Privilege* refers to the absolute privilege granted to senior
11 citizens under this Act. The term "free" shall mean that fees, charges, and taxes of all
12 kinds shall not be imposed.

13 (b) *Movie Theater* refers to a theater, cinema or movie house where films are
14 shown. The commercial operations of this type of establishment are in the form of
15 selling movie tickets for purchase of the general public. For purposes of this Act, the
16 term includes only regular movie theaters, expressly excluding premium
17 establishments such as 3D, 4D, IMAX, or director's club theaters and cinemas. The
18 privilege also does not cover special events such as sponsored movie premiers, pay
19 per view showing, and other similar movie screenings that cater to special productions.

20 (c) *Senior Citizen* refers to any resident citizen of the Philippines at least sixty
21 (60) years old.

22
23 SEC. 4. *Scope and Coverage.* - This Act shall apply to all movie theaters in the
24 country and may be availed of by all senior citizens nationwide.

25
26 SEC. 5. *Free Movie Privilege, Availment and Non-transferability.* - The free
27 movie privilege shall be non-transferable and exclusively given to senior citizens upon
28 their personal presentation of a duly issued Senior Citizens Identification (ID) Card.
29 Allowing another person to use one's ID shall result in the revocation of the free movie
30 privilege under this Act. Senior citizens shall be entitled once a week to the free movie
31 privilege unless the movie theater where they seek admission to has extended the

1 free movie privilege more than once a week. Every free movie access ticket shall be
2 valid only for a single viewing.

3
4 *SEC. 6. Local Government Units and Compliance Monitoring of Movie Theaters.*

5 - Local government units (LGUs) in their respective territorial jurisdictions shall ensure
6 the implementation of this Act in movie theaters within their localities. Each movie
7 theater shall be required to provide an official monitoring sheet where senior citizens
8 shall register and write their full names, signatures, and Senior Citizens ID numbers
9 every time they avail of the privilege. The LGUs shall require movie theaters to submit
10 such monitoring sheets and other relevant reports as proof of compliance.

11
12 *SEC. 7. Penalty Clause.* - Any movie theater operator who fails to comply with
13 the provisions of this Act shall be meted a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos
14 (PhP20,000.00) for every violation.

15
16 *SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Interior and
17 Local Government, in consultation with the Department of Social Welfare and
18 Development and other relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and
19 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. The implementing rules and
20 regulations issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its
21 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

22
23 *SEC. 9. Appropriations.* -The amount necessary for the implementation of this
24 Act shall be charged against those authorized in the current appropriations of the
25 LGUs. Thereafter, the amount necessary for its continued implementation shall be
26 included in the General Appropriations Act.

27
28 *SEC. 10. Separability Clause.* - If any part, section or provision of this Act is
29 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts thereof not affected thereby shall
30 remain in full force and effect.

1 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
2 orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with
3 or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed
4 accordingly.

5
6 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
7 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,