

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8052



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

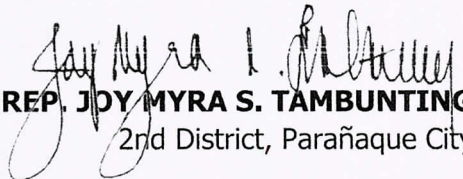
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Any nation owes its developments to its elderly population, who in their youth have strived to contribute to the nation's growth. Considering this, it is the State's and our responsibility to look after them after rendering numerous years of service.

In this regard, this measure seeks to provide free immunization to all senior citizens with the goal of ensuring the maintenance of the quality of their lives. This measure is also consistent with the Constitutional guarantee of preferential treatment to and the prioritization of the needs of the elderly along with other vulnerable sectors of the society.

This measure mandates the Department of Health to administer free vaccinations against influenza virus, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, pneumococcal disease and other vaccinations deemed necessary by the Department to all senior citizens.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 8052

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AN ACT

UPHOLDING SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS' RIGHT TO HEALTH, BY PROVIDING FREE IMMUNIZATION TO ALL SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010", PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Safeguarding Seniors: Free Immunization Act of 2020".

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Consistent with the Constitution which mandates that there shall be priority for the needs of the elderly, the State shall endeavor to provide free vaccination to all senior citizens. In recognizing the vulnerabilities of senior citizens, the State shall protect their health by ensuring that they have a protective line of defense against protect their health by ensuring that they have a protective line of defense against viruses and other diseases through free vaccination.

Sec. 3. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 743, as amended by Republic Act No. 9257, further amended by Republic Act No. 9994, otherwise known as the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010", shall be hereby further amended to read as follows:

SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. –

The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

XXX

(f) the DOH shall administer free vaccination against the influenza virus, **TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS** and pneumococcal disease, **AND OTHER SIMILAR APPROVED VACCINATIONS WHICH THE DOH DEEMS NECESSARY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE** for **ALL** [indigent] senior citizen patients;

Sec. 4. Appropriations. – The amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of DOH in the current and subsequent General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the concerned departments in the annual General Appropriations.

Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with other implementing agencies, shall formulate rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper implementation and enforcement of this Act.

Sec. 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, resolutions, orders or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,