AN ACT
EXPANDING THE PRIVILEGES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS TO INCLUDE FREE PARKING IN ALL ESTABLISHMENTS AND EXEMPTION FROM THE NUMBER CODING SCHEME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9994, or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, defines ‘senior citizens’ as individuals aged 60 years old and above. Senior citizens make up 7.5 percent of the total population, or 7.5 million Filipinos, as of the latest census of the Philippine Statistics Authority in 2015.

The Philippine government recognizes the role of the elderly in nation-building and their continued contributions to society and development. As such, legislation that encourages mobility, growth, and protection for our dear elderly is of importance.

While we transition from this “new normal” to a world without COVID-19, opportunities for productive members of society to contribute to economic development shall be made available once public health is secured. It is the purpose of this legislation to follow the guidelines set by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Undoubtedly, government efforts to address this pandemic, especially to protect the vulnerable population such as our senior citizens are continuous and unrelenting. Until then, this legislation signifies the forward-looking commitment of the government to
minimize the burden to its people and to contribute to economic development.

This bill seeks to provide additional benefits and privileges to the Filipino elderly. This proposed legislation exempts them from paying parking fees in all establishments and from the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program or the number coding scheme implemented by the Government. Through this initiative, we are providing our senior citizens simple economic benefits that would reward their great contributions to our country’s development. This bill has been filed last 17th Congress but remained pending at the committee level. Nevertheless, the clamor for more benefits for Filipino senior citizens persists.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

[Signature]

ALFRED VARGAS
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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 “Free Parking and Coding Exemption for Senior Citizens Act”

SECTION 2. Amendatory Provision. – Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7432, as amended, is hereby further amended by inserting the following provisions after Subsection (i) to read as follows:

“SEC. 4. Privileges for the Senior Citizens. – The senior citizens shall be entitled to the following:

XXX

(i) FREE PARKING IN ALL ESTABLISHMENTS FOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN;

(m) EXEMPTION FROM THE UNIFIED VEHICULAR VOLUME REDUCTION PROGRAM OR NUMBER CODING SCHEME OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR VEHICLES WHERE A SENIOR CITIZEN IS EITHER THE DRIVER OR THE PASSENGER;
(n) XXX

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The relevant government agencies shall draft the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act within fifteen (15) days from its effectivity for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the reminder of the Act or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,