

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

9 NOV 11 PM 14

SENATE
S. B. No. 3527

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has long been the defender of our freedom and protector of our people. Our soldiers have placed themselves in the forefront of conflicts and calamities. It is only just that we provide them with proper assistance as they transition from active service to private citizenry.

One area that we need to address is the transfer of care from the Department of National Defense (DND) to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO). Our veterans face unnecessary difficulties during such transfer. DND and PVAO should be more proactive and relieve our veterans of the hassles of transferring.

This bill seeks to mandate the DND and PVAO to provide for an automatic transfer of record of qualified veterans upon separation of service.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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1 AN ACT
2 TO IMPROVE THE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL
3 DEFENSE AND THE PHILIPPINE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO BETTER PROVIDE
4 CARE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Veterans Transitional
6 Assistance Act.”

7 SECTION 2. *Transmittal of Records.* – Upon the discharge or release of a member of the
8 Armed Forces, the Department of National Defense shall transmit the military service record and
9 contact information of the member to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO).

10 SECTION 3. *Contacting the Veterans.* – PVAO shall contact each person for whom the
11 office receives a military service record and contact information under Section 2 not later than 30
12 days after the date on which the office receives such record and information, and shall provide to
13 the person such forms and other information as may be necessary for the person to apply for any
14 benefits, including medical benefits, to which the person may be entitled under the laws
15 administered by PVAO.

16 SECTION 4. *Report.* – Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
17 the Secretary of National Defense and the Director of PVAO shall submit to Congress a report
18 on the implementation of this section.

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

4 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/apm110309