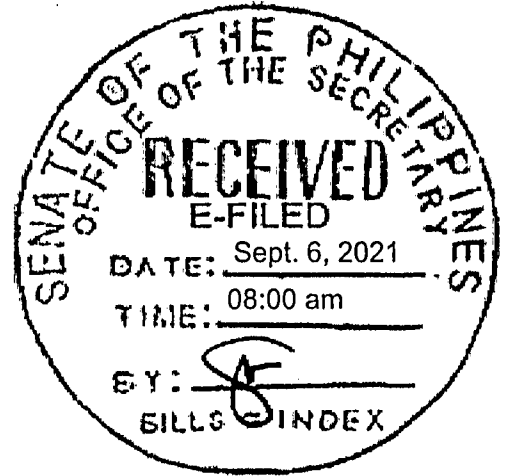


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 2378



Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
ADJUSTING THE MONTHLY PENSION AND DISABILITY BENEFITS OF
RETIRES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XVI, Section 8 of the Constitution mandates that "the State shall, from time to time, review to upgrade the pensions and other benefits due to retirees of both the government and private sectors."

Section 62 of Republic Act No. 7157 or the "Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991" provides that, "All permanent officers and employees of the Service who are citizens of the Philippines shall have compulsory insurance coverage under the rules and regulations governing the same: Provided, however, That the President upon recommendation of the Secretary may, as soon as practicable, submit for enactment by Congress a foreign affairs retirement and disability system, taking into account the difficulties of foreign service personnel in setting aside sufficient savings to take care their eventual retirement in the Philippines due to old age or some other disability, with the increased burden of establishing a home in the Philippines after completion of their tour of duty abroad."

Existing law recognizes the unique position of foreign service workers and officials who perform their mandated duties as public servants overseas. They take on sensitive diplomatic responsibilities of advancing the nation's interests in foreign lands, and respond to the varied concerns of millions of migrant Filipinos. They promote the welfare and ensure the safety of overseas workers amid threats of war, natural

calamities, economic recession, epidemics, and other crisis situations. Their valuable work in pursuing friendly and lasting international relations are enjoyed by all Filipinos in terms of enhanced national security, generation of jobs, entry of foreign investments, expanded trading, vibrant tourism sector, among many others.

This legislation proposes a foreign affairs retirement and disability system considering the complex nature of their work and hardships of overseas deployment. It also seeks to honor the hard work, professionalism and dedication of our foreign service personnel as the country's frontliners and flag-bearers in the international arena, through the institution of a decent and appropriate pension scheme.

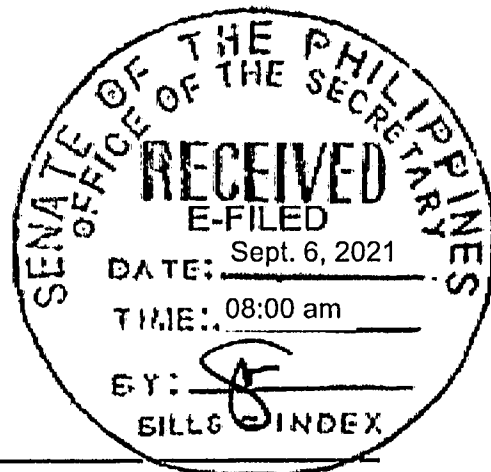
In this light, the immediate passage of this bill is recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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SENATE

S. No. 2378



Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
ADJUSTING THE MONTHLY PENSION AND DISABILITY BENEFITS OF
RETIREES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 Section 1. *Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all retired officers and employees
2 of the DFA who:

- 3 a) served in the Department for at least 15 years; and
4 b) are eligible to receive a monthly pension from the Government Service
5 Insurance System (GSIS).

6 All other officers and employees of the DFA who have also retired after serving
7 in the DFA but who have not complied with all the above mentioned requirements
8 shall be covered by applicable benefits under the GSIS Act, as amended.

9 *Sec. 2. Adjustment of Monthly Pension.* – The monthly pension benefits of all
10 retirees of the DFA, as provided under Republic Act No. 7157, shall be automatically
11 adjusted at the same rate as any future or subsequent increase in the salary grade of
12 the same rank he or she retired from.

13 *Sec. 3. Additional Entitlements.* – All officers and employees covered by Section
14 1 of this Act, shall be eligible for disability and death benefits in the same manner
15 provided under the GSIS Act, as amended, and other relevant laws.

1 Sec. 4. *Retroactive Effect.* – The benefits under this Act shall also be granted
2 to all retirees of the DFA who retired prior to the effectivity of this Act in the same
3 manner provided in Section 2 hereof.

4 Sec. 5. *Survivorship Benefits.* – In case of death of a DFA retiree or personnel
5 who has met the requirements provided in Section 1, the following shall be entitled to
6 receive the adjusted retirement benefits that the deceased was receiving or entitled
7 to receive: (a) his or her surviving dependent spouse, during his or her lifetime, or
8 until he or she remarries; and (b) dependent children. Said benefits shall be distributed
9 or apportioned in accordance with the GSIS Act, as amended.

10 Sec. 6. *Appropriation and Funding Source.* – The differential funding
11 requirements for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced from any
12 available savings of the DFA.

13 Thereafter, the annual differential amount necessary for GSIS to pay the
14 adjusted monthly pension and other benefits to implement the provisions of this Act
15 shall be included in the General Appropriations Act annually. The funding thereof shall
16 be sourced from the DFA's annual consular income as a percentage thereof.

17 Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within (90) days after the
18 effectivity of this Act, DFA shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
19 effective implementation of this Act, in coordination with relevant government
20 agencies.

21 Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
23 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

24 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
25 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
26 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
27 accordingly.

28 Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,