

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE	
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES	)
First Regular Session	í

22 JH 27 P4 47

SENATE

S.B. No. 911



### Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

#### AN ACT

RATIONALIZING THE DISABILITY PENSION OF VETERANS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, ENTITLED, "AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR BENEFICIARIES," AS AMENDED

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In recognition of their service and commitment to the nation, Philippine veterans must be awarded with sufficient assistance by the Government for the sickness, disease, wounds or injuries sustained in the line of duty. Section 7, Article XVI of the Philippine Constitution states:

Section 7. The State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans. Funds shall be provided therefor and due consideration shall be given them in the disposition of agricultural lands of the public domain and, in appropriate cases, in the utilization of natural resources.

Taking this into consideration, the present rates that are provided for under Republic Act 6948, while it may have been enough during the time of its passage, has been severely undervalued in terms of the economic value after three decades.

While R.A. 6948 provides for the distribution of disability pension to Philippine veterans, the old rates provided therein are grossly inadequate, it being enacted in 1990. Almost 32 years after the enactment of R.A. 6948, the present legislation

covering the pensions of disabled veterans has to be adjusted in order to mirror the inflation and the devaluation of the Philippine Peso that occurred during that time period. Congress, by the power vested on it by the Constitution, has to exercise its right to remedy this problem through the passage of this pertinent legislation.

**SONNY ANGARA** 

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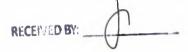


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Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

**SECTION 1.** Section 5 of Republic Act No. 6948, as amended, is hereby 1 further amended to read as follows: 2 "SEC. 5. Pension Rates. - A veteran who is disabled owing to sickness, 3 disease, wounds or injuries sustained in line of duty shall be given a monthly 4 disability pension in accordance with the rates prescribed hereunder[, unless 5 he is actually receiving similar pension for the same disability from other 6 government funds or from the United States Government]; 7 8 "a) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ten to thirty per centum (10% - 30%), the monthly pension shall be [One thousand 9 pesos (P1,000.00)] FOUR THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS 10 (PHP 4,500.00); 11 "b) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from thirty-one to forty 12 per centum (31% - 40%), the monthly pension shall be [One thousand 13 one hundred pesos (P1,100.00)] **FIVE THOUSAND** 14 **HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 5,300.00)**; 15 "c) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from forty-one to fifty 16 per centum (41% - 50%), the monthly pension shall be [One thousand 17

1	two hundred pesos (P1,200.00)] SIX THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED
2	PESOS (PHP 6,100.00);
3	"d) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from fifty-one to sixty
4	per centum (51% - 60%), the monthly pension shall be [One thousand
5	three hundred pesos (P1,300.00)] SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED
6	PESOS (PHP 6,900.00);
7	"e) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from sixty-one to
8	seventy per centum (61% - 70%), the monthly pension shall be [One
9	thousand four hundred pesos (P1,400.00)] SEVEN THOUSAND
10	SEVEN HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 7,700.00);
11	"f) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from seventy-one to
12	eighty per centum (71% - 80%), the monthly pension shall be [Onc
13	thousand five hundred pesos (P1,500.00)] EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE
14	HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 8,500.00);
15	"g) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from eighty-one to
16	ninety per centum (81% - 90%), the monthly pension shall be [One
17	thousand six hundred pesos (P1,600.00)] NINE THOUSAND THREE
18	HUNDRED PESOS (PHP 9,300.00);
19	"h) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ninety-one to one
20	hundred per centum (91% - 100%), the monthly pension shall be [One
21	thousand seven hundred pesos (P1,700.00)] TEN THOUSAND PESOS
22	(PHP 10,000.00); plus [Five hundred pesos (P500.00)] ONE
23	THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 1,000) for the spouse and each unmarried
24	minor children: Provided, That a veteran, [with or] without a service-
25	connected [or non-service connected] disability, upon reaching the age
26	of seventy (70) is deemed totally disabled [with one hundred per
27	centum (100%) rating] and shall be entitled to a monthly pension of
28	One thousand seven hundred pesos (P1,700.00) ONLY; [plus Five
29	hundred pesos (P500.00) for the spouse and each unmarried minor
30	children.] PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE ENTITLEMENT TO
31	THE DISABILITY PENSION AUTHORIZED HEREIN SHALL BE

# PROSPECTIVE AND LIMITED TO ELIGIBLE LIVING VETERANS ONLY."

- **SEC. 2.** *Appropriations* The initial amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's available appropriations of the Philippine Veterans Office. Thereafter, such sums as may be needed for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
- **SEC. 3.** *Separability Clause* If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.
- **SEC. 4.** *Repealing Clause* All existing laws or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
- **SEC. 5.** *Effectivity Clause* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,