

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



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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

P. S. Res. No. 602

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

RESOLUTION

URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY AND/OR APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN THE EXERCISE OF OVERSIGHT FUNCTION, ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VETERANS WARDS, AS MANDATED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7696

1 WHEREAS, Article XVI, Section 7 of the Constitution provides that: "The State
2 shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance
3 to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and
4 orphans. Funds shall be provided therefor and due consideration shall be given them
5 in the disposition of agricultural lands of the public domain and, in appropriate
6 cases, in the utilization of natural resources."

7 WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 6948, otherwise known as "An Act Standardizing
8 and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents," was signed
9 into law on 09 April 1990. It declared as State policy to help foster the
10 socioeconomic security and well-being of the country's veterans in recognition of
11 their patriotic services in times of war and peace for the cause of freedom and
12 democracy; for the attainment of national unity, independence, and socioeconomic
13 advancement; and for the maintenance of peace and order, in keeping with the
14 goals of the Government and the aspirations of the people;

15 WHEREAS, Section 17 of RA 6948 was amended by RA 7696 in 09 April 1994.
16 The said section provides that the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) shall

1 enter into agreement with all government hospitals including regional, provincial,
2 district and municipal hospitals for the establishment of veterans wards, with an
3 initial aggregate capacity of at least two thousand (2,000) beds to provide
4 hospitalization and medical care to veterans and dependents;

5 WHEREAS, the same section provides that there will be at least one (1)
6 government hospital with a veterans ward in each province and in each city which is
7 not a provincial capital;

8 WHEREAS, the same section further states that the hospital where the
9 veteran was confined shall immediately inform the PVAO accordingly of his
10 confinement, for the latter to immediately remit to said hospital the necessary funds
11 in payment of the confined veteran's expenses for hospitalization and medicines;

12 WHEREAS, the Joint Administrative Order No. 2020-0001 issued by the
13 Department of Health and the Department of National Defense established
14 guidelines for the implementation of the Veterans Hospitalization and Medical Care
15 Program (VHMCP) and the establishment of Veterans Wards in DOH hospitals;

16 WHEREAS, "Veterans Wards" refers to the wards in government hospitals,
17 dedicated to cater to veterans and eligible dependents, recognized and established
18 through the agreement endorsed by PVAO and DOH hospitals;

19 WHEREAS, under the subject JAO, the DND, through the PVAO and the
20 Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) shall, among others, provide funding
21 requirements for the establishment of Veterans' Wards; while the Health Facility
22 Development Bureau (HFDB) of the DOH shall determine and prioritize DOH
23 hospitals that will establish Veterans Wards, provide technical assistance and
24 facilitate provision of appropriate staffing pattern for the efficient operations of
25 Veterans' Wards;

26 WHEREAS, in a 2022 PVAO report, there are already two pilot Veterans'
27 Wards, namely Southern Philippines Medical Center in Davao City and Northern
28 Mindanao Medical Center (NMMC) in Cagayan de Oro City. The NMMC is now fully
29 operational;

30 WHEREAS, in 2021, DOH identified Region 1 Medical Center in Dagupan City,
31 Batangas Medical Center in Batangas City and Eastern Visayas Medical Center in
32 Tacloban City as additional sites for Veterans' Wards at various stages of completion;

1 WHEREAS, a total of 19 hospitals from different provinces and regions have
2 already been identified to host the veterans wards from 2023 up to year 2029. The
3 hospitals were selected based on the number of veterans and eligible dependents
4 per province, the feasibility of constructing the veterans' wards within the hospital's
5 health facilities, and the support from the Medical Center Chiefs;

6 WHEREAS, more than three decades since the enactment of RA 6948 and RA
7 7696 which instituted a national policy of establishing veterans wards towards
8 ensuring adequate and efficient health care program for our veterans and their
9 dependents, the full realization and implementation of the program remains to be
10 seen;

11 WHEREAS, a review on the implementation of the aforesaid laws is in order to
12 determine and clear obstacles in program execution as well as identify and set aside
13 the required budgetary requirements to accelerate the completion of the Veterans'
14 Wards, as envisioned under the said laws;

15 WHEREAS, considering the advanced age, frail health condition and physical
16 disabilities of our war and military veterans, it is imperative that fully functioning
17 facilities and responsive health care system are in place to readily attend to their
18 needs;

19 WHEREAS, our veterans and war heroes deserve to receive immediate care
20 and comprehensive assistance from the national government in recognition of their
21 significant contribution to attaining and preserving the nation's freedom, peace, and
22 democracy;

23 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate,
24 urging the Senate Committee on Health and Demography and/or appropriate Senate
25 Committee/s to conduct an inquiry, in the exercise of oversight function, on the
26 establishment of Veterans Wards, as mandated by Republic Act No. 6948, otherwise
27 known as An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and
28 Their Dependents, as amended by Republic Act No. 7696.

Adopted,


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA