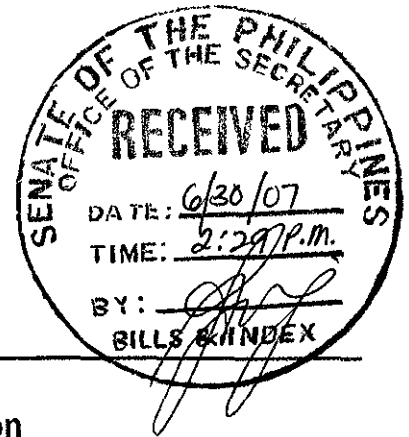


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S. No. 142



Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Art. XVI, Sec. 7 of the Constitution expressly provides that "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..."

Both the Philippines and the United States of America owe our brave Filipino World War II Veterans a debt of gratitude for it is, indeed, their ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives that served to protect and defend our country's liberty and freedom.

Currently, Sec. 10 of Republic Act No. 6948, entitled "An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents," as amended, forfeits the pension given by the Philippine Government to Filipino World War II Veterans should a similar pension be given by the United States Government.

This should not be, considering that, as aforesaid, we owe the Filipino World War II veterans a tremendous debt of gratitude such that a monthly pension is the least we could do to show our appreciation and improve their quality of life, especially now that they are in their advanced age, weak, sickly and some dying. It would be a great disservice to the Filipino World War II Veterans if the Philippines withdraws the pensions and benefits it grants to them when something similar is given to them by the United States Government.

Furthermore, the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) of the United States House of Representatives approved the bill proposed by the Honorable California Congressman Robert Filner to grant pension benefits to Filipino World War II Veterans and their widowed spouses. While this landmark legislative measure remains to be approved by the United States Senate, its passage is almost assured before the year 2007 ends, provided that the benefits received by the veterans and their heirs from the Philippine government shall not be withdrawn.

Thus, this bill proposes to amend Sec. 10 of Republic Act No. 6948, as amended, to allow Filipino World War II Veterans to continue receiving pensions and benefits given by the Philippine Government even when similar pensions and benefits are given by the United States Government. Furthermore, the old-age pension of P500 monthly from the Philippine Government will also be increased to P5,000 monthly in this bill.

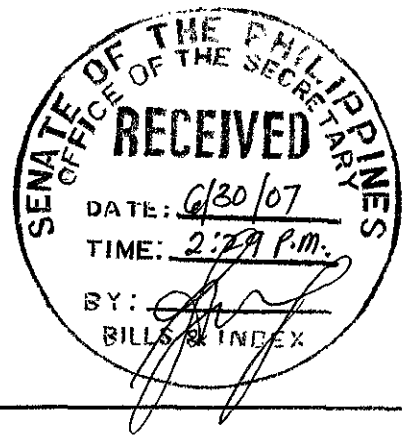
The Philippine Government must continue to provide the pensions and benefits that our veterans justly deserve and which partially represent the sense of gratitude and honor that we have for them. The grant by the United States government of similar pensions and benefits should not diminish this in any manner. For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.



RICHARD J. GORDON
Senator

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

SENATE
S. No. 142



Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

AN ACT
ALLOWING FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS TO CONTINUE RECEIVING
PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PENSIONS AND BENEFITS EVEN WHEN SIMILAR
PENSIONS AND BENEFITS ARE PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT,
AMENDING SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, AS AMENDED, FOR THIS
PURPOSE

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “Filipino World War II
2 Veterans Pensions and Benefits Act of 2007.”

3 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to recognize and reward
4 the courage and heroism of Filipino World War II Veterans by granting them pensions and
5 benefits even when similar pensions and benefits are already provided by the United States
6 Government.

7 **Sec. 3. Amendment of Section 10 of Republic Act No. 6948, as Amended.** –
8 Section 10 of Republic Act No. 6948, entitled “An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the
9 Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents,” as amended, is hereby amended to
10 read as follows:

11 “Sec. 10. Eligibility. – A veteran AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 (A) OF
12 THIS ACT who is at least sixty-five (65) years old shall be paid an old-age
13 pension of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) monthly, unless he is
14 actually receiving a similar pension for the same consideration from other
15 PHILIPPINE government funds [or from the United States Government].”

16 **Sec. 4. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
17 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
18 repealed or modified accordingly.

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1 **Sec. 5. Appropriation.** – The funding to carry out this Act shall be included in the
2 annual General Appropriations Act.

3 **Sec. 6. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall
5 remain in force and effect.

6 **Sec. 7. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the
7 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation
8 in the Philippines.

9 Approved,