


FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 SEP 17 2011

SENATE
S.B. 1597

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Villar

Explanatory Note

The judiciary of any country serves as the bastion of democracy. It is the premier institution that serves to administer justice and upholds the rule of law. For the purpose, the corps of the bench is held to the highest standards of public service and are at all times accountable to people and serve with utmost responsibility, loyalty, efficiency, patriotism and justice. The members of the judiciary should then lead modest lives, for they are accountable for but one duty: serving the ends of justice.

It is of common knowledge that the remuneration accorded to the members of the judiciary is indecently low. In fact, in the most recent survey entitled *Diagnostic Study of the Judiciary* by the Social Weather Station (SWS) covering the period 2005 to 2006, sixty one percent (61 %) of the respondent judges call their compensation "inadequate." This is a sad fact considering that the same study showed that the majority of those surveyed feel their caseloads are heavy, with over thirty percent (30%) of judges being responsible for two or more courts.


Republic Act No. 910 is the governing statute providing for the retirement of justices of the Supreme Court and the members of the Philippine judiciary. The law is supplemented by the Government Service Insurance System and other retirement programs observed in the bureaucracy.

The legislation seeks to increase the benefits and incentives being received by members of the Philippine judiciary, in addition to the existing retirement program, by providing them the following:

- a. highest monthly aggregate of representation, transportation and living allowances at the time of his retirement or resignation;
- b. educational scholarship for a legitimate child or scholar officially nominated or designated by the Member of the Philippine Judiciary in any state university or college;
- c. livelihood assistance, as may be applicable, that may be sourced from in any government agency or government-owned and controlled-corporation.

The bill covers the following : Chief Justice and all Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Sandiganbayan, and the Court of Tax Appeals; all Judges of the Regional Trial Court, Metropolitan Trial Court, Municipal Trial Court; Shari'ah District Court; Shari'ah Circuit Court.


The legislation is a small deed when compared to the enormity of responsibility thrust upon them. It is submitted in honor of the respected and distinguished members of the Philippine judiciary, and thus, early recognition of this bill is earnestly sought.



MANNY VILLAR

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AN ACT
FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE JUDICIARY, GRANTING
ADDITIONAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO ITS MEMBERS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. In addition to the present benefits and emoluments under existing retirement program, a member of the Philippine judiciary shall receive the following additional benefits and incentives:

- d. highest monthly aggregate of representation, transportation and living allowances at the time of his retirement or resignation;
- e. educational scholarship for a legitimate child or scholar officially nominated or designated by the Member of the Philippine Judiciary in any state university or college;
- f. livelihood assistance, as may be applicable, in any government agency or government-owned and controlled-corporation;

The Member of the Philippine Judiciary as contemplated under this Act shall include the Chief Justice and all Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the Sandiganbayan, and the Court of Tax Appeals; all Judges of the Regional Trial Court, Metropolitan Trial Court, Municipal Trial Court; Shari'ah District Court; Shari'ah Circuit Court; or any court hereafter established as allowed under existing laws.

SECTION 2. The amount necessary to implement and carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby appropriated in the savings of all and combined agencies comprising the Philippine Judiciary. Thereafter, the sum needed shall be integrated in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,