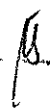


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**SENATE**

S. No. 934

FORWARDED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

***"Ang taong hindi marunong lumingon sa kanyang pinanggalingan ay hindi makakarating sa kanyang pinaroroonan."*** This is the popular translation of George Santayana's dictum.

Truly we owe much of what we are as a nation today to the generations before us. The generation that immediately precedes ours is still with us today as retirees and veterans. We still have the opportunity to acknowledge our debt and show our gratitude by ensuring that after devoting their lives and careers towards building the present society whose benefits we now enjoy, these people are able to spend the twilight of their years in some modicum of comfort.

This bill proposes to grant the following respective proportions of the salary level being received by government employees and members of the Armed Forces still in active service and holding the same position, rank or office as the retiree or veteran at the time of their separation or honorable discharge:

- (a) to retirees and veterans, seventy percent (70%);
- (b) to disabled veterans, seventy-five percent (75%); and
- (c) to the surviving spouses in case of death, sixty percent (60%)

This bill also proposes to grant additional privileges such as fifty percent (50%) discount on fares on government-owned transportation facilities; recreational facilities, housing projects, etc.; educational benefits to descendants, free hospitalization and medical care for kin, and funeral benefits.

The justice and compassion with which we provide for our retirees and veterans today will, in the long run set the example for next generation who will in their turn deal with us in our own old age.


In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
Senator

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**SENATE**

S. No. 934

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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**AN ACT**  
**INCREASING THE PENSION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF**  
**GOVERNMENT RETIREES FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1.** *Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "***Pension and Benefits Act of 2010***".

**SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of this Act to grant socio-economic benefits and increase the pension of government retirees and veterans to a substantial portion of the level of salary received by the government employees and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines still in active service and currently holding the same position, rank or office as the government retirees at the time of his/her retirement or the veteran at the time of his/her retirement, separation or honorable discharge.

**SEC. 3.** *Definition of Terms.* - For the purpose of and when used in this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) *Government retirees* means employees of the government or any of its subdivision, agency or instrumentality including government-owned or controlled corporations or their subsidiaries, who have retired after reaching the compulsory retirement age, or who have been separated from service due to permanent total incapacity or disability.

(b) *Veterans* means Filipinos who rendered military service during the Philippine Revolution, Philippine-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, the anti-insurgency campaign or any other war or military campaign wherein the Republic of the Philippines was involved; or who have rendered military service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and had been honorably discharged, or

separated from service due to disability arising from wounds, injuries, sickness or disease incurred while in active service and in the line of duty.

(c) *Pension* means the monthly compensation received by government retirees and veterans.

**SEC. 4. *Increased Pensions.*** - Monthly pensions of all government retirees and veterans shall be increased up to seventy percent (70%) of the level of salary received by government employees and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippine still in active service and currently holding the same position, rank or office as the government retiree at the time of his/her retirement or the veteran at the time of his separation or honorable discharge: *Provided, however,* That the monthly pensions of all veterans who have been honorably discharged or separated from service due to disability arising from wounds, injuries, sickness or disease incurred while in active service and in the line of duty shall be increased to seventy-five percent (75%) of the level of salary received by members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines still in active service and currently holding the same position, rank or office as the said veteran at the time of his/her separation or honorable discharge.

**SEC. 5. *Benefits.*** - Government retirees and veterans shall be entitled to the following benefits:

(a) Fifty percent (50%) discount from all government-owned or controlled transportation system, whether land, sea or air.

(b) Free hospitalization and health services including annual physical/medical check-up in all government-owned hospitals and health centers and fifty percent (50%) discount from all privately-owned hospitals and health centers.

(c) Free entrance fees to all government-owned cultural and sports institutions such as the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Folk Arts Theater, Film Center of the Philippines, Metropolitan Theater, Metropolitan Museum, Rizal Stadium, among others.

(d) Fifty percent (50%) for movies, stage plays, concerts, shows, sports events and similar forms of entertainment from privately-owned movie houses, theaters, games and sports arenas and like institutions.

(e) Free legal and tax counseling services from government-owned institutions.

(f) Fifty percent (50%) discount in rent or purchase from government-owned housing projects, and in case of rentals, with a right to purchase for ownership within five (5) years.

(g) Free enrollment fees for seminars, workshops and livelihood courses in all government-owned schools and institutions.

**SEC. 6. *Educational Benefits for Descendants.*** - Two (2) children of each retiree and veteran shall be admitted to any government-owned school, college, university or institution with all school fees, including tuition, library, laboratory, medical, military training, physical education, diploma and graduation fees at the expense of the Government.

The children who shall avail of these benefits may be chosen by the veteran or retiree, in consultation with his/her spouse. If the veteran or retiree is deceased, the surviving spouse alone shall choose. If both the veteran or retiree and his/her spouse are deceased, the two eldest children who have not acquired a college degree shall be chosen.

Failure of the child-beneficiary to pass at least seventy-five percent (75%) of his/her units in college for more than two (2) successive semesters shall be a ground for the forfeiture of the benefits.

**SEC. 7. *Free Hospitalization and Medical Care for Kin.*** - The following relatives of retirees and veterans shall be entitled to free hospitalization and medical care in all government-owned hospitals, clinics and health centers:

- a) the legitimate spouse;
- b) the dependent parents;
- c) the legitimate children below twenty-one (21) years old and unmarried or physically and/or mentally incompetent or incapacitated.

**SEC. 8. *Funeral Benefits.*** - The Government shall bear fifty percent (50%) of the financial expenses in the funeral of a retiree or veteran, including the cost of a casket, the fees charged by the memorial home and cemetery, plus an additional Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00) for the wake.

**SEC. 9. *Pension for Surviving Spouse.*** - The surviving spouse of a retiree or veteran shall receive a monthly pension of sixty percent (60%) of the level of salary received by government employees and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines still in active service and holding the same position, rank or office as the deceased retiree or veteran at the time of their retirement or honorable discharge.

In cases where the retiree or veteran leaves no surviving spouse, the benefits shall be received by the children or guardian of the retiree or veteran.

**SEC. 10. Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of National Defense (DND), the Department of Education (DepEd), the National Housing Authority (NHA) and all other departments and government-owned or controlled corporations necessary for the implementation of this Act, shall promulgate the rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from its approval.

**SEC. 11. Penalties.** - Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine not less than One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) and not more than Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00): *Provided, That* if the violator is a juridical person, there shall be an additional cancellation of franchise.

**SEC. 12. Appropriations.** - There shall be appropriated out of the General Fund not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary for the payment of the increased pensions and the implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters of instructions or proclamations inconsistent with this Act shall be deemed modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

**SEC. 14. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**