



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 4214

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMAN, DIAZ, CUA (J.), PADILLA, GONZALES (N.),
DE GUZMAN, AGBAYANI, VELARDE AND ROMULO

AN ACT CREATING THE MILITARY SERVICE BOARD AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 SECTION 1. *Creation of the Board.* – A Military Service Board,
2 hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created to review and reevaluate
3 the claim-applications previously filed in the former Military Service Boards
4 by any person who claims to have performed military service in the Philippines
5 during the period beginning December 8, 1941 and ending July 3, 1946, and to
6 determine the validity of the claims for the purpose of confirming the military
7 service rendered and qualifying the applicants for military veterans status
8 under any of the documentary evidences prescribed under Republic Act
9 No. 8440 and Executive Order No. 198, series of 2003.

10 The Board shall be supervised by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office
11 (PVAO) under the Department of National Defense.

12 SEC. 2. *Composition.* – The Board shall be composed of a retired
13 military officer, preferably a World War II veteran, as Chairperson, two (2)
14 representatives from the PVAO and two (2) veterans of World War II from the
15 recognized veterans organizations. The Chairperson and four (4) members

1 recognized veterans organizations. The Chairperson and four (4) members
2 shall be selected and appointed by the Secretary of National Defense from a
3 list of nominees submitted by the PVAO.

4 SEC. 3. *Period of Existence.* – The Board shall cease to exist three (3)
5 years after the effectivity of this Act.

6 SEC. 4. *Limitation.* – The Board shall consider only those applications
7 already filed and pending with the Military Service Boards which were created
8 pursuant to Republic Act No. 8440 and Executive Order No. 198, series of
9 2003.

10 SEC. 5. *Unauthorized Fees.* – No person, natural or juridical, shall
11 charge a claimant any fee in connection with any claim for confirmation of
12 service. Any person found to have directly or indirectly solicited, contracted
13 for, charged or received or attempted to solicit, charge or receive any fee or
14 compensation shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not more than
15 Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or by imprisonment of not more than
16 six (6) months, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the
17 court.

18 SEC. 6. *Finality of Decisions.* – The Board shall have the exclusive
19 authority to pass judgment on a claim for confirmation of military service. The
20 decision of the Board shall be final.

21 SEC. 7. *Resultant Benefits.* – Any entitlement of a person to receive
22 veterans benefits as a result of this Act shall be administered by the PVAO in
23 accordance with existing laws and regulations.

24 SEC. 8. *Report to the President and Congress.* – Within thirty (30)
25 days after the expiration of its operations, the Board shall submit to the
26 President and to Congress an accomplishment report detailing the number of
27 claims acted upon and accounting for its funds.

1 SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of
2 National Defense shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act,
3 issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

4 SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial
5 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the
6 Department of National Defense under the current General Appropriations Act.
7 Thereafter, the funds needed for the continued operation of the Board, pursuant
8 to Section 3 hereof, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
9 Act.

10 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
11 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
12 modified accordingly.

13 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
14 following its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
15 circulation.

Approved,

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