

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. **1683**

(In Substitution of Senate Bill No. 637)

Prepared jointly by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means and Finance with Senators Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV, Sonny Angara and Loren B. Legarda as authors



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AN ACT
GRANTING BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FORMER PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES OR THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5059, REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2087, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “*Former Presidents and Vice*
2 *Presidents’ Benefits Act of 2018.*”

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the state to
4 maintain the dignity of the Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President and to
5 honor former Presidents and Vice Presidents of the Republic by granting them certain
6 benefits and privileges that will allow them to perform the duties and functions often required
7 of a former President or Vice President.

8 **SEC. 3. Eligibility.** – All former Presidents and Vice Presidents shall be entitled to
9 the benefits and privileges provided under this Act: *Provided,* That he/she was not removed
10 from office through impeachment; he/she has not been convicted by final judgment of any
11 crime involving corruption or moral turpitude; and he/she has not accepted any appointive
12 employment and/or has not ran for any elective position in the government after his term of
13 office as President or Vice President.

1 **SEC. 4. *Benefits.*** – Each former President and Vice President eligible under this Act
2 shall be entitled to the following benefits and privileges for the remainder of his/her life:

3 (a) Tax-free retirement pension equivalent to the salary of an incumbent President
4 and incumbent Vice President for the former President and Vice President,
5 respectively;

6 (b) Adequate personal security and protection detail of at least three (3) personnel to
7 be provided by the Presidential Security Group and to be augmented by the
8 Philippine National Police (PNP), as the need arises. The former President and
9 Vice President shall have the right to choose the head of his/her own security
10 detail;

11 (c) All mail matters of the former President and Vice President addressed for delivery
12 within the Philippines shall be received, transmitted and delivered in the mails of
13 the Philippines free of postage if the envelope or wrapper of such mail matter
14 bears on the left hand corner the name of said former President or Vice President;
15 and

16 (d) Fifty percent (50%) discount on all public transportation and foreign travel for
17 him and an aide or accompanying person.

18 **SEC. 5. *Benefits extended to the immediate family.*** – The immediate family of the
19 former President and Vice President shall be entitled to the following benefits:

20 (a) Personal security and protection of at least three (3) personnel to be provided by
21 the Presidential Security Group to be augmented by the Philippine National
22 Police (PNP) or the children until they reach the age of 21, and for the surviving
23 spouse for the remainder of his/her life or until he/she re-marries;

1 (b) Full scholarship for at least one (1) child of the former President and Vice
2 President's children under twenty-one (21) years of age in any course in any state
3 college and/or university;

4 (c) In case of the former President's death, the surviving spouse shall be entitled to a
5 tax-free retirement pension equivalent to the salary of an incumbent President:
6 *Provided*, That if such widow/widower of the former President re-marries, he/she
7 shall lose the benefits and privileges provided under this Act;

8 (d) In case of the former Vice President's death, the widow/widower shall be entitled
9 to a tax-free retirement pension equivalent to the salary of an incumbent Vice
10 President: *Provided*, That if such widow/widower of the former Vice President re-
11 marries, he/she shall lose the benefits and privileges provided under this Act; and

12 (e) All mail matters of such widow/widower, addressed for delivery within the
13 Philippines, shall be received, transmitted and delivered in the mails of the
14 Philippines free of postage if the envelope or wrapper of such mail matter bears on
15 the left upper corner his/her name.

16 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this
17 Act shall be included by the Department of Budget and Management in the annual General
18 Appropriations Act (GAA).

19 **SEC. 7. Separability Clause.** – If any provision, section or part of this Act shall be
20 declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not affect, invalidate or impair any
21 other provisions, sections or parts hereof but shall be merely confined to the provision,
22 section or part thereof that is directly involved in the issue upon which judgment has been
23 rendered.

24 **SEC. 8. Repealing Clause.** – Republic Act No. 2087 is hereby repealed accordingly.
25 Further, all laws, decrees, orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations or other

1 issuances and parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, including but not
2 limited to Republic Act No. 5059, are likewise amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

3 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
4 publication in two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the country or in the *Official*
5 *Gazette.*

Approved,