

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



SENATE
Office of the Secretary

'19 DEC 18 P 3 :41

SENATE
S.B. NO. 1249

RECEIVED BY

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGES
DURING THEIR INCUMBENCY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“Those who take on the mantle of responsibility for administering justice take on not just the duty to apply the law and settle disputes, they take on all those who try to subvert it: the unjust, the wicked, the scum of the earth...” -JD¹

By reason of the nature of their profession, members of the judiciary are potential targets of assaults, attacks, and intentional killings by disgruntled dissatisfied or vindictive parties or litigants as confirmed by news reports². They are even targets of criminals, who just want to make a name for themselves.

As pointed out by Amnesty International, Philippine judges are among those most at risk of assassination. This is supported by data that from 1999 to 2012, alone, twenty-two (22) judges have been murdered or assassinated. An average of two (2) judges are killed every year³.

The Philippine Government is already providing hazard pay of “at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the monthly basic salary” to various government personnel whose work entails “occupational risks or perils to life”. But judges face far greater risks or perils to life by reason of their profession, thus, with more reasons that members of the judiciary should be granted the same recognition and benefit. Judges are classified as “high risk” due to the nature of their work and demand for the imposition of higher insurance premium for their coverage.

¹ TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN: THE CASE for HAZARD PAY, By: Judge Angelo C. Perez (RTC, Branch 27, Cabanatuan City).

² Inquirer Website, <http://opinion.inquirer.net/45373/lawyers-judges-are-being-killed-too>;
<http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/581391/fearless-zamboanga-city-judge-shot-dead>.

³ GMA Network Website, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/350443/news/nation/house-bill-seeks-hazard-pay-for-rtc-judges>.

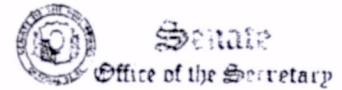
Justice is the bedrock of democracy. The Legislative must insure that those who dispense it and those who continually make the ultimate sacrifice in the fight for truth, equity and justice are recognized and given the benefits and protection they deserve. Thus, the necessary first step towards this goal and in support of the Philippine Judges Association is to grant hazard pay to incumbent Regional Trial Court Judges equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of the monthly basic salary.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Hazard Pay for Regional Trial
2 Court Judges Act".
3

4 **SECTION 2.** All duly appointed judges in the Regional Trial Court shall be granted hazard
5 pay during their incumbency in the amount equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of their
6 basic monthly salary per month.
7

8 **SECTION 3. Appropriations.** The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
9 Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the Judiciary under the current
10 General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued
11 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
12

13 **SECTION 4.** The hazard pay for judges shall not be subject to tax and nothing in this Act
14 shall be construed as to diminish, in any manner, any benefit granted by existing laws, rules
15 and regulations, local ordinances and other issuances especially favorable to duly appointed
16 judges in the Regional Trial Court.
17

18 **SECTION 5.** The Department of Budget and Management in consultation with the Judiciary
19 shall, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, issue the implementing rules and
20 regulations of this Act.
21

22 **SECTION 6. Repealing Clause.** Any provision of laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
23 regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and modified
24 accordingly.
25

26 **SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
27 publication in a newspaper of general circulation.
28

29 *Approved,*