


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

7 JUN 30 P3:36

SENATE

S. No. 190

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Biazon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On 09 April 1990, on "Araw ng Kagitingan," President Aquino signed into law RA No. 6948 entitled "An Act Standardizing And Upgrading The Benefits For Military Veterans And Their Dependents" which provided for an updated and rationalized benefits system for our veterans. Thousands of veterans and their dependents benefited from this law which put into flesh the constitutional mandate that "[T]he State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans." (Section 7, Article 15, 1987 Constitution)

Exactly four years later, on another "Araw ng Kagitingan," RA No. 7696 was signed into law. This law amended the original by, among others, providing for administrative total disability pension which is given to all veterans upon reaching 70 years old regardless of whether they are actually disabled, totally or partially. The amount to be given was P1,700 plus P500.00 for the spouse and each unmarried minor children.

While obviously laudable, this benefit was never actually funded by Congress mainly because the executive department never included it in its annual budget submissions to Congress. As a result, arrearages in this benefit gradually piled up and have at present reached a gargantuan P24.328 Billion.

As it stands, there appears to be no immediate solution to the problem whether coming from the legislature or the executive. In the meantime, the arrears continue to mount even as its supposed beneficiaries dwindle in numbers every year.

This proposed bill seeks to stop the bleeding, so to speak, by deleting the provision which mandates the aforesaid administrative total disability pension.

The bill is prospective, not retroactive, in its effectivity. This means that those who have been entitled to this benefit have acquired a vested right and it shall not be taken away by this bill. However, those who have not reached 70 years old upon its effectivity shall not anymore be entitled to this benefit.

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


RODOLFO G. BIAZON
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

)
)
) 7 JUN 30 P3:36

SENATE

S. No. 190

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Biazon

AN ACT
FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
"AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY
VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS" AS AMENDED

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

SECTION ONE. Paragraph (h) of Section 5 is hereby amended to read
follows:

(h) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ninety-one
to one hundred per centum (91% - 100%), the monthly pension shall be
One thousand seven hundred pesos (P1,700.00): plus Five hundred
pesos (P500.00) for the spouse and each unmarried minor children[.].
[Provided, That a veteran, with or without a service-connected or non-
service connected disability, upon reaching the age of seventy (70) is
deemed totally disabled with one hundred per centum (100%) rating and
shall be entitled to a monthly pension of One thousand seven hundred
pesos (P1,700.00) plus Five hundred pesos (P500.00) for the spouse and
each unmarried minor children.]

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, rules, regulations, orders,
circulars and memoranda inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon
approval.

Approved,