

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

7 JUL -3 NO 28

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 688

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Congress has enacted R.A. No. 6948, otherwise known as "An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and their Dependents," in order to recognize immense contributions of our war veterans, who selflessly and valiantly defended our sovereignty against foreign intruders during World War II.

Yet, for more than ten years, the law sadly has not been implemented, mainly due to budgetary constraints and partly to administrative inefficiencies; causing tremendous pecuniary losses to thousands of veterans and their beneficiaries, some of whom have died while waiting for the release of what supposedly they are legally and justly entitled to receive.

If only to provide relief, albeit inadequate and certainly not commensurate to what our wartime heroes have accomplished for our country, the proposed measure intends to authorize the release of dormant accounts under the management and control of DBM, in order to cover for initial payment to qualified veterans, who at this time, urgently need financial assistance to shoulder their medical and other pressing needs.

The concrete manifestation of the government's profound gratitude to our gallant veterans, more than honoring their contributions through superficial ceremonies, is to expend all efforts to provide needed assistance, financial or otherwise, to our indubitably genuine heroes.

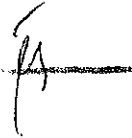
Hence, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly requested.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL  
DISABILITY PENSION TO SENIOR VETERANS OF WARS AND MILITARY  
CAMPAIGNS

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

**SECTION 1.** The dormant accounts under the control of the Department of Budget and Management are hereby made available for the initial payment of the Administrative Total Disability Pension for military veterans in accordance with Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7696.

**SEC 2.** Thereafter, the amount required to pay his pension for the coming years shall be included in the annual budget of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) .

**SEC 3.** One tenth of the total amount of arrearages in this pension shall likewise be included in the budget for the coming years until such arrearages are fully paid.

**SEC 4. *Repealing Clause.*** All existing laws or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC 5. *Separability Clause.*** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

**SEC 6. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*