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

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SENATE

S. BILL No. 754

Introduced by Senator Antonio F. Trillanes IV

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There can be no dispute that Filipino World War Veterans who fought for our country and defended the nation against foreign aggressors deserved to be honored, respected and appreciated.

However, now in the twilight of their years, many of them still receive very small pensions and very little benefits and medical assistance.

This bill seeks to increase the present benefits of our Filipino World War Veterans by increasing their monthly pension and at the same time providing them with medical assistance.

It is hoped that by passing this measure, the increase in pension and benefits, small as they may be, can help show our compassion and appreciation for our beloved War Veterans and help ameliorate their plight.

The approval of the proposed bill is, therefore, imperative.

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S. BILL No. 754

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AN ACT

AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS'.

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

SECTION 1. <u>Amendment of Section 3, R.A. No. 7696</u>. -Section 3 of the Republic Act No. 7696 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 10. Eligibility. - A Veteran as defined in Section 2(a) of this Act who is at least sixty-five (65) years old shall be paid an old-age pension of SIX THOUSAND PESOS (P6,000.00) monthly, unless he is actually receiving a similar pension for the same consideration from other government funds or from the United States Government: Provided, that in the succeeding years FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT, said SIX THOUSAND PESOS (6,000.00) shall be increased annually by not less than ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) per month until tota1 old pension shall be at least TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) per month."

SEC. 2. <u>Amendment of Section 7, R.A. No. 7696</u>. – Section 7 of the Republic Act No. 7696 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 20. Burial AND MEDICAL Assistance. - Unless the person who defrayed the expenses for the funeral of a deceased veteran is entitled to a similar benefit from the United States Government, he/she shall be given Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) as burial assistance upon application therefore in due form which shall be filed within two (2) years from the death of the concerned. FURTHER, A VETERAN AS DEFINED IN SECTION 2 (a) OF THIS ACT IS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FREE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED PESOS (P200.00) A DAY IN ANY ACCREDITED HOSPITALS."

SEC. 3. <u>*Rules and Regulations.*</u> - The Department of National Defense shall formulate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. <u>*Repealing Clause*</u>. - Sections 3 and 7 of R. A. No. 7696 are hereby considered amended accordingly.

Any other issuances, laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof not consistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. <u>Effectivity</u>. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,