

RB-09

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1549



Introduced by REP. DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Republic Act No. 8282, or the Social Security Act of 1997, specifically in Section 12 (b) thereof, SSS members with at least ten credited years of service are provided a monthly pension of ₱1,200, while those with 20 credited years are given ₱2,400.

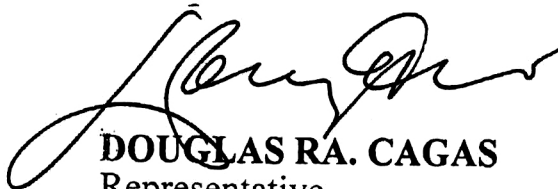
With the spiraling cost of living, especially in the prices of medicines and essential commodities, these amounts have been rendered woefully inadequate to meet even the barest needs of the SSS pensioners.

Retirees prior to the effectivity of RA 8282 are even more hardpressed because their monthly pension is governed by the old Social Security Law of June 18, 1954 (RA 1161) that pays very much less.

Thus, it becomes imperative, in light of the social justice policy enshrined in the Constitution, to adjust the SSS pension rates to keep them fairly responsive to the basic necessities of private employment retirees.

This measure is meant to carry out such adjustment through a two-pronged approach: (1) raising the minimum monthly pension to ₱3,000, and (2) annual increase of ₱500 until the minimum of ₱5,000 a month is reached. Additionally, the attached bill provides that the new monthly pension rates shall be applicable to all SSS members regardless of the effectivity of their retirement.

Early passage of this bill is thus earnestly urged to provide immediate relief to the countless distressed SSS retirees.


DOUGLAS RA. CAGAS
Representative
1st District, Davao del Sur

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AN ACT
INCREASING PENSIONS UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY
SYSTEM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF THE
SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997

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

SECTION 1. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 1161, as amended by Republic Act No. 8282, otherwise known, as the Social Security Act is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. Monthly Pension. - (a) The monthly pension shall be the sum of the following:

- (i) Three hundred pesos (₱300.00); plus
- (ii) Twenty percent (20%) of the average monthly salary credit; plus
- (iii) Two percent (2%) of the average monthly salary credit for each credited year of service in excess of ten (10) years; or
- (2) Forty percent (40%) of the average monthly salary credit; or
- (3) One thousand pesos (₱1,000.00): *Provided, That the monthly pension shall in no case be paid for an aggregate amount of less than sixty (60) months.*

"(b) Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, the minimum MONTHLY pension shall be [One thousand two hundred pesos (₱1,200.00) for members with at least ten (10) credited years of service and Two thousand four hundred pesos (₱

2,400.00) for those with twenty (20) credited years of service] THREE THOUSAND PESOS (₱3,000.00) IN THE SUCCEEDING YEARS STARTING JANUARY 2005, THE THREE THOUSAND MONTHLY PENSION BENEFIT SHALL BE INCREASED ANNUALLY BY FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (₱500.00) PER MONTH UNTIL THE MINIMUM MONTHLY PENSION SHALL REACH FIVE THOUSAND (₱5,000.00) PER MONTH. THE COMMISSION SHALL EQUITABLY ADJUST THE MONTHLY PENSIONS OF OTHER ENTITLED MEMBERS OR BENEFICIARIES WHOSE MONTHLY PENSIONS ARE HIGHER THAN THE MINIMUM MONTHLY PENSION TO PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE PENSION PROGRAM."

SEC. 2. THE NEW MONTHLY PENSION AND ITS ANNUAL INCREMENT PROVIDED HEREIN SHALL APPLY TO ALL BENEFICIARIES REGARDLESS OF THE EFFECTIVITY OF THEIR RETIREMENT.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,