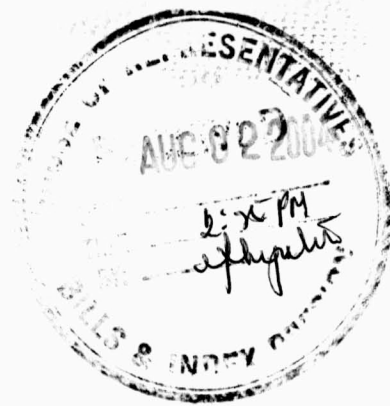


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1979

=====

Introduced by **Hon. Gerardo J. Espina, Jr.**

=====

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to further amend Republic Act No. 910 with the end in view of upgrading the retirement, disability and survivorship benefits of public attorneys and to place them, in that regard, on equal footing with the members of the judiciary.

Being dubbed as public defender, the public attorney takes the cudgels for the indigent and the lowly in all forms of litigation before the courts of justice and even administrative and quasi-judicial bodies. He does so, with an eye, not to personal aggrandizement, but to public service, as such, he plays a pivotal role in the dispensation of justice.

Ruefully, though, apart from the modest pay that he receives during the prime of his career, he gets a paltry sum in the ebb of his life when he can hardly flex his infirmed body to earn a living. As an ineluctable consequence, too many brilliant lawyers are crowded out from the service, thereby leaving the poor's clarion call for justice unheeded.

In sum, bills aims not to attach a pecuniary tag on the public attorney's services but, rather, to give him his just deserts for his fervid commitment to help the destitute in their quest for justice.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this is earnestly requested.


GERARDO J. ESPINA, JR.,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1979

=====

Introduced by **Hon. Gerardo J. Espina, Jr.**

=====

AN ACT
MAKING APPLICABLE TO LAWYERS IN THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS UNDER
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 910, AS AMENDED.

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

SECTION 1. The retirement benefits provided under Republic Act No. 910, as amended, are hereby extended to the lawyers in the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) of the Department of Justice, provided that the retirement age for PAO lawyers shall remain at sixty-five years, and that for one who would avail of optional retirement, he shall have attained the age of sixty years and has rendered at least twenty years service in the Government, the last five of which shall have been continuously rendered in the Public Attorney's Office.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

APPROVED.