

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2356



Introduced by Honorable Tomas M. Dumpit

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7837 was signed into law on 16 December 1994.

Section 1 (Title) of this Act provides that it shall be known as "Act Granting Permanent Resident Status, Other Rights And Privileges To Filipino Veterans Of World War II Who Acquired American Citizenship Under The United States Immigration Act Of 1990 And Any Other Prior Act For These Purposes."

This section indicates that all rights and privileges granted by this Act accrue not only to those Filipino veterans who acquired American citizenship under the United States Immigration Act of 1990 but also to those Filipino veterans who acquired American citizenship under prior United States Acts.

The substantive provisions of this Act, notably Sections 5, 6, and 7, however, do not include the phrase "and any other prior acts." This omission has caused apprehension among Filipino veterans who acquired American citizenship before 1990 that they may not be included among the beneficiaries of this Act. There is a potential problem since this apprehension may become the interpretation of the government implementing agencies.

It is therefore the purpose of this Bill that the intent of the law be made clear.

Approval of this Bill is earnestly requested.

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AN ACT

CLARIFYING THE COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7837, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT GRANTING PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS, OTHER RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES TO FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II WHO ACQUIRED AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP UNDER THE UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1990 AND ANY OTHER PRIOR ACTS FOR THESE PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7837 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 3. Qualifications. - Any Filipino veteran of World War II who acquired American citizenship pursuant to the United States Immigration Act of 1990 OR ANY OTHER PRIOR ACT shall be qualified for permanent resident status and is hereby granted limited property rights and other privileges as provided for in this Act. The same rights and privileges shall likewise automatically accrue upon proper application to the spouses and legitimate, natural, recognized illegitimate, and unmarried children of Filipino veterans who thereafter acquired American citizenship."

SEC. 2. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7837 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 6. Land Ownership. - Any Filipino veteran and his spouse and legitimate, natural, recognized illegitimate, and unmarried children who acquired American citizenship as provided in the United States Immigration Act of 1990 OR ANY OTHER PRIOR ACT shall be entitled to continue to hold and retain all the lands they have acquired before becoming American citizens, subject to the provisions of existing laws: Provided, however, That if they have had no landholding upon becoming American citizens, they shall be qualified to acquire one (1) residential lot of not more than one thousand square meters and/or a farm lot of not more than three hectares."

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SEC. 3. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7837 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 7. Practice of Profession. - Any Filipino veteran and his spouse and legitimate, natural, recognized illegitimate, and unmarried children who became American citizens as provided in the United States Immigration Act of 1990 OR ANY OTHER PRIOR ACT shall be entitled to practice their professions in the Philippines.”

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

SEC. 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.