

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3073



Introduced by Honorable ROILO GOLEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Competition among classes or batches within the officer corps of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is good as it enhances service excellence through class spirit. That is, every class wants to be known as the best class and the class members aim for this through individual and group excellence while in the service.

However, with the present retirement system, this competitive spirit can get out of hand as classes could sometimes compete in a counterproductive way.

For example, there may be a situation where a member of a certain PMA class is the Chief of Staff and he still has younger classmates waiting in the wings qualified to take over as the next chief of staff. Meantime, the next succeeding class has some members vying for the position and who may be older than the candidate members of the upper-class. Thus, by reason of age, the next class could lose out on the opportunity to become the next chief of staff.

Or there could be a perception that the incumbent chief of staff is grooming a classmate (class loyalty) thus jeopardizing the chances of very worthy candidates from the next class.

This could lead to a situation where the younger class could be tempted to undermine the upper-class to the detriment of the service. Or it could lead to counterproductive interclass rivalry that could even have an effect on national security.

The AFP should go back to the old system prior to martial law where members of the class retire at the same time and the members of the next class assume positions of leadership at the same time. This is smoother, more stable and members of the next class bide their time, wait, give full support to the upper-class because they know when exactly they will assume the positions of AFP

leadership. There is more cooperation and interclass rivalry is expressed by excelling in performance without undermining each other.

It is therefore proposed, for the sake of stability and the good of the service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines to amend the AFP retirement law as follows:

An officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be compulsorily retired thirty five years from date of commission or upon reaching the age of fifty eight years old whichever comes first.

Passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



ROILO GOLEZ *RG*

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AN ACT
FIXING THE COMPULSORY RETIREMENT AGE OF OFFICERS OF THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to strengthen and enhance the capability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to implement its constitutional mandate of protecting the People and the State. In pursuance of such policy, this Act fixes the system of compulsory retirement of officers of the AFP in order to maximize their full potential to serve without being prematurely retired under existing laws.

SEC. 2. *Compulsory retirement age for AFP officers.* - An officer of the Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be compulsorily retired thirty five (35) years from date of commission or upon reaching the age of fifty eight (58) years old, whichever comes first.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* - Presidential Decree No. 1638 as amended by Presidential Decree No. 1650 and all other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,