

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3133



Introduced by Honorable **ERNESTO S. GIDAYA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Veterans Federation of the Philippines was chartered under Republic Act No. 2640 as a public corporation under the control and supervision of the Secretary of National Defense.

The Veterans Federation of the Philippines is organized and operated as a non-government organization where membership is voluntary. Members pay membership dues. There are no funds appropriated by the government for its maintenance and operation or for the salaries of its officers and employees.

Unlike other organizations designated by law as public corporations, such as the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, the Girl Scouts of the Philippines and the Knights of Rizal, the Veterans Federation of the Philippines is required to operate under the control and supervision of the Secretary of National Defense. The law provides that any action or decision of the Federation is subject to the approval of the Secretary of National Defense.

This bill seeks to relieve the Secretary of National Defense of the responsibility of micro-managing a purely civilian organization of voluntary members so that the Secretary can concentrate on his primary governmental function of ensuring the defense of the country against external and internal threats to national security and the efficient operation of the government agencies assigned or attached to the Department of National Defense. Passage of this bill will finally clarify the working relationship between the Department of National Defense and the Veterans Federation of the Philippines, a non-governmental organization.

This bill also seeks to modify certain provisions of the original law to conform to the current situation and prevailing conditions.

Approval of this bill is urgently recommended.


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AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2640
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO CREATE A PUBLIC CORPORATION TO BE
KNOWN AS THE VETERANS FEDERATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, DEFINING ITS
POWERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress Assembled*

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. The following persons, to wit: Emilio Aguinaldo of Association de los Veteranos de la Revolucion; Margarito Torralba of the AFP Retired Veterans Association (AFPREVA); Lorezno B. Cabrera of the Confederation of Filipino Veterans (CONVETS); Teodoro V. Kalaw of the Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor; Fausto S. Alberto of the ECLGA Veterans Association; Enrique C. Rimando of the FAIT Veterans Legion; Francisco L. Gonzales of the Filipino Disabled Veterans Association; Basilia M. Baja of the Gold Star Mothers and United War Widows and Orphans Association of the Philippines; Simeon C. Medalla of the Hunters ROTC Association; Antonio F. Garcia of the Magsaysay Veterans Legion; Dionisio S. Ojeda of the PEFTOK Veterans Association; Primitivo Lovina of the Philippines National Guard Veterans Legion; Jose V. Adranda of the Philippine Naval Veterans Legion; Jaime Piopongco of the Philippine Veterans Legion; Sofia L. Prudenciado of the Philippine Association of War Widows, Parents and Orphans; Eugenio B. Recto of the United Disabled Veterans Association of the Philippines; Gaudencio Antonio of USAFIP-NL and their associates and successors are hereby created a body corporate, under the AEGIS [control and supervision] of the Secretary of National Defense, under the name, style and title of "Veterans Federation of the Philippines", hereinafter referred to as the Federation. The principal office of the Federation shall be in the NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION [City of Manila], Philippines."

SEC 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. The said Federation shall have perpetual succession, with power to sue and be sued; to hold such real and personal property as shall be necessary for its purposes, and to receive real and personal property by gift, devise or bequest; to invest its funds for the exclusive benefit of the veterans of the Philippines; to extend, within its capabilities,



all necessary assistance, and operate such enterprises as may further the material or moral well-being of veterans; to adopt a seal, and to alter or destroy the same at pleasure; to have offices and conduct its business and affairs in the City of Manila and/or provinces, cities, municipalities and BARANGAYS [barrios] of the Philippines; TO ADOPT and to amend ITS CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS [said laws], regulations and rules; to establish and operate branches of its office anywhere in the Philippines; to publish a magazine and/or other publications; and generally, to do all such acts and things as may be necessary to carry into effect the provision of this Act and to promote the purposes of said Federation.

[Any action or decision of the Federation or of the Supreme Council shall be subject to the approval of the Secretary of National Defense.]”

SEC. 3. Section 3 of Republic Act No. 2640, as amended by Batas Pambansa Bilang 35, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. No association shall be an affiliated member of the Federation unless it is integrated by veterans who RENDERED MILITARY SERVICE IN THE MILITARY FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES WHILE THE PHILIPPINES WAS AT WAR OR IN A PHILIPPINE MILITARY UNIT WHILE SUCH UNIT WAS PARTICIPATING IN A MILITARY CAMPAIGN SO DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, SUCH MILITARY SERVICE TO BE CERTIFIED BY THE APPROPRIATE AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE [served in the naval, air or land arms or services in the Philippines at some time in the Philippine Revolution, or World War I or II, or in the United States³ Army in the Far East in World War II, or in the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea in the Korean Campaign, or in any armed conflict in which the Philippines may be involved in the future, or retirees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who had served in the military service for a minimum of ten years]: *Provided, however,* That the said veterans [or retirees] have been honorably discharged or separated from the MILITARY FORCES OR MILITARY UNIT [service or continue in the active military service or are carried on the military rosters on inactive reserve.]”

SEC 4. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 5. The Federation shall be A NON-GOVERNMENT, non-sectarian and non-political ORGANIZATION [in character], and [that] affiliation thereto shall not increase or diminish liability for military service. THIS ACT DOES NOT CONFER THE STATUS OF A PUBLIC, GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CORPORATION ON THE FEDERATION.”

SEC 5. Section 7 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. The governing body of the said Federation shall be its Supreme Council. The number, qualifications, manner of election and terms of office of the members of this Supreme Council and of the officers of the Federation shall be prescribed by its own constitution and by-laws. [The persons named in Section one of this Act shall constitute its Supreme Council and the persons elected for the term of office beginning March, nineteen hundred sixty, shall be the first officers of said Federation; to serve as such until their successors are duly elected and have qualified.]



The by-laws shall prescribe the number of members of the Supreme Council necessary to constitute a quorum."

SEC. 6. Section 8 of the Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 8. REGULAR MEETINGS [An annual meeting] of the Supreme Council [affiliated members] shall be held TWICE A [once every] year after the date of the creation of the Federation, at such time and place as shall be prescribed in the constitution and by-laws, when the annual report of the Federation shall be presented, and members of the Supreme Council and officers shall be designated OR [and] elected. Special meetings of the Supreme Council may be called upon such notice as⁴ may be prescribed in the constitution and by-laws, which shall further fix the number of [affiliated] members which shall constitute a quorum at any REGULAR [annual] or special meeting. The Supreme Council shall have power to hold their meeting and keep the seal, books, documents and papers of the Federation at the principal office of the Federation."

SEC. 7. Section 12 of Republic Act No. 2640 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. On or before the last day of the month following the end of each fiscal year, the Federation shall make the transmit, FOR THE INFORMATION OF [to] the President of the Philippines THROUGH [or to] the Secretary of National Defense, a report of its proceedings for the past year, including a full, complete and itemized report of receipts and expenditures of whatever kind."

SEC. 8. Separability Clause – If any part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect upon approval.

