

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3385**



Introduced by Honorable **ERNESTO S. GIDAYA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to start the implementation of the so-called Administrative Total Disability Pension for all veterans who are at least seventy years old.

The Ninth Congress passed Republic Act No. 7696 in 1994. One of the provisions of this law is that a veteran, with or without a service-connected disability, upon reaching the age of seventy is deemed totally disabled with a one hundred percent disability rating and shall be entitled to a monthly disability pension of one thousand seven hundred pesos plus five hundred pesos each for the spouse and unmarried minor children.

This provision of law, which was enacted ten years ago, has never been implemented. The government now owes each senior veteran about P200,000 in unpaid disability pension. Needless to say, thousands of our veterans have already passed away without availing of this benefit.

This bill does not seek the immediate payment of the large arrearages that now total about P17 Billion. Instead, this bill only seeks to start the payment of the current monthly disability pension. The old veterans need this money very badly to pay for their medicines and other medical requirements that can not be adequately met by the government's medical programs. There is information that such payments may be sourced from the government's dormant accounts. This bill, therefore, proposes to avail of the dormant accounts for the initial payment of the administrative total disability pension. Let us do this for our old veterans in recognition of their sacrifices and services to our country in war and in peace.


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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL
DISABILITY PENSION TO SENIOR VETERANS OF WARS AND MILITARY
CAMPAIGNS.

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

SECTION 1. The dormant accounts under the control of the Department of Budget and Management are hereby made available for the initial payment of the Administrative Total Disability Pension for military veterans in accordance with Section 2 of Republic Act No. 7696.

SEC 2. Thereafter, the amount required to pay this pension for the coming years shall be included in the annual budget of the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO).

SEC 3. One tenth of the total amount of arrearages in this pension shall likewise be included in the budget for the coming years until such arrearages are fully paid.

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

SEC 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.