

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4140



Introduced by **HON. MARY ANN L. SUSANO** and **HON. SIMEON A. DATUMANONG**

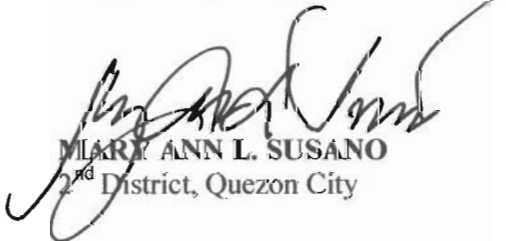
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill seeks to amend Republic Act 910 to provide benefits to the surviving spouse of Justices or Justice-Pensioner. It is an implementation of the mandate of Section 3, Article VIII of the Constitution which grants fiscal autonomy and independence to the judiciary.

As provided by the Constitution, the appropriations approved for the Judiciary are automatically released without passing through the Budget department of the Executive branch of the government. The Justices also enjoy security of tenure and their salaries cannot be decreased during their term of office. These are some of the measures provided to strengthen the doctrine of separation of powers whereby each branch of the government is left alone to discharge their respective duties.

Since the enactment of Republic Act Numbered 910, there were significant changes that happened in the socio-economic, political and cultural landscape of the country. However, except for an amendment approved on June 21, 1957 which stipulates the result if there is an increase or decrease on the salary of Justices, there was no other measures effected to adjust the benefits of Supreme Court and Court of Appeals Justices. To adapt with the fast pace of life and continuously be strong and mature in maintaining the rule of law, there must be some changes that should be made to benefit the Judiciary. The Justices must not be distracted with supposedly mundane matters such as on how they or their family will survive after their retirement or in case of death. For this purpose, the Justices must be assured now with benefits and emoluments they deserve considering their position and responsibilities.

With the passage of this bill, we will expect that the Justices will be in a better position to freely and independently concentrate in the prompt administration of Justice. With a better justice system, the respect in our courts and the judiciary will be truly recognized by the people. Hence, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


MARY ANN L. SUSANO
2nd District, Quezon City


HON. SIMEON A. DATUMANONG
2nd District, Maguindanao

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

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4140

Introduced by **HON. MARY ANN L. SUSANO** and **HON. SIMEON A. DATUMANONG**

AN ACT TO AMEND REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED NINE HUNDRED AND TEN, AS AMENDED, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT ITS PROVISION

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

SECTION 1. Section 3 of Republic Act Numbered Nine Hundred Ten (RA 910), as amended, is further amended by adding a new sub-paragraph to be denominated as Sec. 3(b) to read as follows:

“SECTION 3 (b). THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A JUSTICE OR RETIRED JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEALS, SHALL BE PAID A MONTHLY PENSION EQUIVALENT TO EIGHTY PERCENT (80%) OF THE AMOUNT RECEIVED BY A JUSTICE OR RETIRED JUSTICE – PENSIONER UNTIL THE SURVIVING SPOUSE REMARRIES OR DIES; THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A JUSTICE OR RETIRED JUSTICE, IF SHE DOES NOT REMARRY, SHALL ALSO BE PAID THE SAME MONTHLY PENSION WHEN THE SURVIVING SPOUSE REACHES THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE (65) AND UNTIL THE SURVIVING SPOUSE IS ACTUALLY RECEIVING A SIMILAR PENSION FOR THE SAME CONSIDERATION FROM OTHER GOVERNMENT FUNDS.”

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect after (15) days following its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,