

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5489



Introduced by HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to increase the pension of veterans and give them the reassurance of support for them to avail of government programs for their rehabilitation so that they can be retooled again and facilitate their return as productive members of our society. The current pension rates of disabled veterans as provided by Republic Act No. 6948 as amended by Republic Act No. 7696 is as follows:

- a) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ten to thirty *per centum* (10% - 30%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00);
- b) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from thirty-one to forty *per centum* (31% - 40%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand One Hundred Pesos (P1,100.00);
- c) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from forty-one to fifty *per centum* (41% - 50%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P1,200.00);
- d) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from fifty-one to sixty *per centum* (51% - 60%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Three Hundred Pesos (P1,300.00);
- e) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from sixty-one to seventy *per centum* (61% - 70%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (P1,400.00);
- f) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from seventy-one to eighty *per centum* (71% - 80%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00);
- g) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from eighty-one to ninety *per centum* (81% - 90%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (P1,600.00);
- h) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ninety-one to one-hundred *per centum* (91% - 100%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Seven Hundred Pesos (P1,700.00).

The present rate is not adequate to support the current needs of our soldiers turned veterans due to their service-connected disability primarily because of the rising cost of living. The proposed increase is in accordance with the profile of AFP veterans currently receiving disability pension from the PVAO taking into consideration the wide disparity in frequency distribution of the disability ratings categories as revealed in a study.

In view of the need to give due recognition to the sacrifices made by our soldiers and veterans in the defense of our country, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.
2ND District, Pangasinan

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Introduced by HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948 AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7696, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT
STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY
VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 5, Title II of R.A. No. 6948, as amended by Section 2 of R.A. No. 7696, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Section 5. *Pension Rates* - A veteran who is disabled owing to sickness, disease, wounds or injuries sustained in line of duty shall be given a monthly disability pension in accordance with the rates prescribed hereunder, unless he is actually receiving a similar pension for the same disability from other government funds or from the United States Government:

- a) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ten to thirty *per centum* (10% - 30%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00);
- b) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from thirty-one to forty *per centum* (31% - 40%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P1,200.00);
- c) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from forty-one to fifty *per centum* (41% - 50%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (P1,400.00);
- d) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from fifty-one to sixty *per centum* (51% - 60%), the monthly pension shall be One Thousand Eight Hundred Pesos (P1,800.00);
- e) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from sixty-one to seventy *per centum* (61% - 70%), the monthly pension shall be Two Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P2,200.00);
- f) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from seventy-one to eighty *per centum* (71% - 80%), the monthly pension shall be Two Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (P2,600.00);
- g) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from eighty-one to ninety *per centum* (81% - 90%), the monthly pension shall be Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00);

- h) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ninety-one to one hundred *per centum* (91% - 100%), the monthly pension shall be Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00); plus Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for the spouse and each unmarried minor children as defined under the Family Code of the Philippines; *Provided*, That a veteran with or without a service-connected or non-service connected disability, upon reaching the age of seventy (70) is deemed totally disabled with one hundred *per centum* (100%) rating and shall be entitled to a monthly pension of One Thousand Seven Hundred Pesos (P1,700.00) plus Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) for the spouse and each unmarried minor children as defined under the Family Code of the Philippines.”

SECTION 2. Section 20 of Republic Act No. 6948 as amended by Section 7 of Republic Act No. 7696 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Section 20. *Burial Assistance*. – Unless the person who defrayed the expenses for the funeral of a deceased veteran is entitled to a similar benefit from the United States Government, he/she shall be given Fifteen Thousand Pesos (P15,000.00) as burial assistance upon application therefore in due form which shall be filed within two (2) years from the death of the veteran concerned.”

SECTION 3. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,