

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

HOUSE BILL NO. 5768



Introduced by Rep. Raul T. Gonzalez, Jr.

The Salary Standardization Law enacted in 1992 sought to answer the increasing demands of million of employees serving the government against the increasing disparity in wages offered in the private sector vis-a-vis the public sector. It also sought to answer government personnel's immediate and pressing need to survive the present economic crisis. Although said law partly solved the pressing demands of everyday living, it is but a stop gap measure and did not answer the long term concern and issues encountered by law practitioners in government, particularly those in the Public Attorney's Office (PAO).

The imperative need to update the present compensation and position classification system ultimately will improve the quality of public service. The past years witnessed the influx of lawyers going away from public practice and into private practice. There has been a consistent clamor among them for better financial compensation package since what they have been receiving at present as compared to their counterpart in the private practice is very dismal. Thus, the constant trend of public attorneys being lured to the more lucrative private practice is common and has become the norm once sufficient experience in litigation and court practice is acquired. The Public Attorney's Office now becomes just a training ground for neophyte lawyers and serves as their window to opportunities for a better market.

The bill will thus provide lawyer's in the Public Attorney's Office financial security by providing them with a better financial package to encourage them to remain in their particular aspect of law practice as well as encourage new lawyers to take part in the admirable work of providing free legal assistance to the poor and needy. In addition, upgrading the position classification and designation of public attorneys on level with, and the same as prosecutors also assures public attorneys government's acknowledgement of their upstanding public service. Considering both these position's. the public attorneys and the prosecutors are basically the same, work is practically the same, upgrading of their position is but proper.

In lieu of these, approval of the bill is earnestly requested.


RAUL T. GONZALEZ

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

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **5768**

Introduced by Rep. Raul T. Gonzalez, Jr.

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6758 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
SALARY AND ALLOWANCE STANDARDIZATION LAW SO AS TO PROVIDE
FOR A NEW SALARY GRADE FOR PUBLIC ATTORNEYS

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

SECTION 1. Policy. - It is the policy of the State to afford free access to the courts and quasi-judicial bodies and adequate legal assistance shall not be deprived to any person by reason of poverty. It is the responsibility of the State to adopt measures that will ensure the availability of government lawyers who will afford free legal assistance to indigents. Towards this end, the State shall provide incentives to Public Attorney's designed to encourage them to remain in such profession and to attract other lawyers to take part in this particular field of law practice.

SECTION 2. Amendment. Section 11, subparagraph (a) of Republic Act No. 6758 is amended to read as follows: SECTION 11 (A) - Public Attorney's in the Public Attorney's Office. - All public Attorneys who have acquired permanent status of

appointments in accordance with the Civil Service Law shall receive a salary in accordance with the following schedule:

Public Attorney 1 - Grade 27

Public Attorney 2 - Grade 28

Public Attorney 3 - Grade 29

Public Attorney 4 - Grade 31

In addition, Public attorneys shall receive a minimum Representation and Transportation Allowance (RATA) in accordance with the following schedule:

Public Attorney 1 - PhP 5,500.00

Public Attorney 2 - PhP 6,000.00

Public Attorney 3 - PhP 10,000.00

Public Attorney 4 - PhP 15,000.00

The Department of Justice in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management shall from time to time and as may be warranted by the circumstances propose for further increase in the amount of salary and RATA of Public Attorney's. Such proposal shall enjoy priority in the General Appropriations Act for the fiscal year succeeding the date of proposal.

SECTION 3. Appropriation. - Such amount as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be appropriated annually beginning with the 2007 General appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in Filipino and English in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,