

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3951**

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to uphold the rights of the workers and promote their welfare. Article II, Section 18 of the Constitution expressly states that:

The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare.

Various statutes have been enacted to attain these lofty goals. There are existing laws ensuring that proper compensation and benefits are given to laborers. There have been efforts to address the peculiar working conditions of the different professions and occupations.

The workers' rights though are not limited to salary, benefits, remuneration, working conditions and environment in the course of employment. The benefits due to a worker after retirement form part of these rights. The State should also ensure that the workers have a rewarding and secured life after retirement.

The prospect of retirement can be a financially difficulty situation given the fact that the steady salary expected from employment will come to an end. Most, if not all workers, look forward to the security provided by their expected retirement benefits from institutions like the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS). The retirement benefits are the reward for the faithful and diligent contributions made to these institutions throughout their lives as workers.

It is only just and proper that the workers receive prompt payment of their retirement benefits. The workers are very much entitled to these benefits after working for a very long period of time. By expediting the payment of retirement benefits, the retirement of a worker, whether from the private or public sector, will become free of unnecessary stress and truly become rewarding.


ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL
Representative
Kalinga Party list

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FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 3951

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ABIGAIL FAYE C. FERRIOL**

AN ACT MANDATING THE PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO SSS OR GSIS MEMBERS WITHIN A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE RETIREMENT DATE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "**Prompt Payment of SSS and GSIS Retirement Benefits Act.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare. The workers' rights include the entitlement to benefits after retirement. They are entitled to the prompt payment of retirement benefits due to them from the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS).

SEC. 3. Period of Payment. – Any law to the contrary notwithstanding the payment of retirement benefits and pensions to all members of the SSS and the GSIS shall be made within a maximum period of thirty (30) days from the retirement date.

SEC. 4. Expeditious Processing. – The SSS and GSIS shall review their respective existing process and requirements for retirement. The SSS and GSIS shall make the necessary changes in order to simplify and expedite the application, review and payment of retirement benefits. The different branch offices of the SSS and GSIS shall be provide prompt assistance to any retiring member in the accomplishment of the needed requirements as early as six (6) month prior to his retirement date.

SEC. 5. Penal Provision. – The following shall be imposed upon any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act:

First offense - Thirty (30) days suspension without pay
Second offense - Three (3) months suspension without pay
Third offense - Dismissal from public service

SEC 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The respective boards of the SSS and the GSIS shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within a period of three (3) months from the approval hereof.

SEC 7. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions thereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,