

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5658

Introduced by BAYAN MUNA Reps. NERI JAVIER COLMENARES and TEDDY A. CASINO

AN ACT  
TO GRANT MONTHLY PENSION TO GOVERNMENT RETIREES  
UNDER R.A. 1616 WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF SEVENTY (70) YEARS,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XVI, Section 8 of the Constitution states that, "The State shall, from time to time, review to upgrade the pension and other benefits to retirees of both government and private sectors."

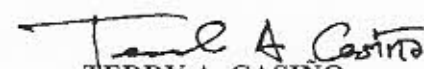
A survey conducted among these retirees showed that majority of them are living in poverty, many of whom have also to depend on help from relatives and friends.

But these retirees under RA 1616, who opted to receive lump sums, could not have lived like those receiving monthly pensions. Government has the obligation to take care of its elderly population, especially those who rendered years of service to government during the prime of their lives. They should be compensated through a monthly pension, which to most of them could be their only source of income.

The bill seeks to grant monthly pension to government retirees under RA 1616 who have reached the age of seventy (70).

Thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
NERI JAVIER COLMENARES  
Bayan Muna Party-List

  
TEDDY A. CASINO  
Bayan Muna Party-List

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

**Section 1. Declaration of Policy** - The Constitution provides that the State shall, from time to time, review to upgrade the pensions and other benefits due to retirees of both the government and private sectors. As far as may be possible, it should provide to those who have less in life the opportunity to earn for their living so that they may play a more active role in social life and especially in the economic and political spheres. It is the duty of the State to create conditions which are necessary to realize the right of all citizens particularly the underprivileged the equal opportunity. To this end, the State shall grant Monthly Pension to government retirees who have availed of retirement benefits under Republic Act No. 1616.

**Section 2. Definition of Terms** - The following terms shall be understood in this Act to mean:

- 1) Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) - refers to the agency entrusted to take charge of all matters pertaining to the benefits and insurance claims of all government officials and employees, as created and established under Presidential Decree No. 1146 and further amended by Republic Act No. 8291;
- 2) Retiree - refers to government officials and employees who have availed of retirement benefits under Republic Act No. 1616 whose annuity was corrupted in accordance with the mortality table and the rate of interest adopted by the system;
- 3) Monthly pension - refers to the monthly benefits to be granted to government retirees under RA 1616 as embodied in this Act, to be determined by the GSIS;

**Section 3. Rules and Guidelines** - To implement this Act, the Government Service Insurance System shall determine the Monthly Pension of a retiree as defined herein and formulate guidelines in the disbursement for said beneficiaries.

**Section 4. Funding** - The President of the Republic is hereby authorized to realign or transfer any item appropriate within the GSIS and/or utilize any savings therein to carry out the purpose of this Act. Whatever additional amount as may be needed for its implementation shall be included in the overall Appropriations Act of the ensuing Fiscal Years.

**Section 5. Separability Clause** - In the event of any portion of provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and thereby shall remain in force and in effect.

**Section 6. Repealing Clause** - All other laws, decrees, rules and regulations contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 7. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

*Approved,*