

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

16th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1318



Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Department of Justice's creation of the Board of Claims aims to resolve applications on claims for compensation of victims of unjust imprisonment, detention and violent crimes. However since its creation in 1992, the funding allocation has remained stagnant and is thus inadequate compensation in present times.

Due to the loss suffered by the victims of unjust imprisonment, detention, and victims of violent crimes, the bill aims to financially give back and increase the compensation authorized under Republic Act No. 7309 from P1,000 to P3,000 per month, whilst providing an outline for the establishment of such claims. This bill also proposes increasing annual funding and increased allocation for the Victims Compensation Fund.


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AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7309, ENTITLED, “AN
ACT CREATING A BOARD OF CLAIMS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FOR VICTIMS OF UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OR DETENTION AND VICTIMS OF
VIOLENT CRIMES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7309, otherwise known as “An Act
2 Creating a Board of Claims Under the Department of Justice for Victims of Unjust
3 Imprisonment or Detention and Victims of Violent Crimes and For Other Purposes”, is hereby
4 amended to read as follows:
5

6 “Sec. 4. *Award Ceiling.* – For victims of unjust imprisonment or detention, the
7 compensation shall be based on the number of months of imprisonment or detention and every
8 fraction thereof shall be considered one month; *Provided, however,* That in no case shall such
9 compensation exceed [One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)] **THREE THOUSAND PESOS**
10 **(P3,000.00)** per month.

11 In all other cases, the maximum amount for which the Board may approve a claim shall
12 not exceed [Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00)] **FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00)** or
13 the amount necessary to reimburse the claimant the expenses incurred for hospitalization,
14 medical treatment, loss of wage, loss of support or other expenses directly related to injury,
15 whichever is lower. This is without prejudice to the right of the claimant to seek other
16 remedies under existing laws.”
17

18 **SECTION 2.** A new section, Section 4-A, is hereby inserted after Section 4 of
19 Republic Act No. 7309, to read as follows:
20

21 “**SEC. 4-A. CIVIL ACTION FOR UNJUST CONVICTION AND**
22 **IMPRISONMENT. NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT OR**
23 **ANY OTHER PERTINENT LAW, ANY PERSON UNJUSTLY CONVICTED AND**
24 **SUBSEQUENTLY IMPRISONED FOR ONE OR MORE CRIMES WHICH HE DID**
25 **NOT COMMIT MAY, UNDER THE CONDITIONS HEREINAFTER PROVIDED,**
26 **BRING AN ACTION FOR DAMAGES BEFORE ANY COURT OF COMPETENT**
27 **JURISDICTION.**
28

29 **THE PERSON, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE “CLAIMAINT”,**
30 **SHALL ESTABLISH THE FOLLOWING BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING**
31 **EVIDENCE THAT:**
32

- 1 (1) HE WAS UNJUSTLY CONVICTED OF A CRIME AND SUBSEQUENTLY
2 SENTENCED TO A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT, AND HAS SERVED ALL
3 OR ANY PART OF HIS SENTENCE;
4 (2) HE DID NOT COMMIT THE CRIME FOR WHICH HE WAS
5 CONVICTED; AND
6 (3) HE DID NOT BY HIS OWN CONDUCT CAUSE OR BRING ABOUT HIS
7 CONVICTION.
8

9 THE ACTION INITIATED BY A VERIFIED PETITION CONTAINING
10 STATEMENT OF THE FACTS CONCERNING THE CLAIM FOR DAMAGES,
11 SHALL BE BROUGHT BY THE CLAIMANT WITHIN A PERIOD OF TWO YEARS
12 AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM IMPRISONMENT.
13

14 DAMAGES AWARDED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL NOT
15 EXCEED TWICE THE AMOUNT OF THE CLAIMANT'S INCOME IN THE YEAR
16 PRIOR TO HIS INCARCERATION OR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
17 (P100,000.00) FOR EACH YEAR OF INCARCERATION, WHICHEVER IS
18 GREATER. IN ADDITION, THE CLAIMANT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE
19 REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.
20

21 A PERSON SERVING A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT FOR A CRIME OTHER
22 THAN A CRIME FOR WHICH HE WAS MISTAKENLY CONVICTED SHALL NOT
23 BE ELIGIBLE TO FILE A CLAIM FOR DAMAGES PURUSANT TO THE
24 PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.
25

26 A PERSON SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE TO FILE A CLAIM FOR DAMAGES
27 PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION IF THE SENTENCE FOR
28 THE CRIME OF WHICH THE PERSON WAS MISTAKENLY CONVICTED WAS
29 SERVED CONCURRENTLY WITH THE SENTENCE FOR THE CONVICTION OF
30 ANOTHER CRIME.
31

32 **SECTION 3.** Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7309 is hereby amended to read as
33 follows:
34

35 "Sec. 9. *Funding.* – For purposes of this Act, the initial amount of Ten Million Pesos
36 (P10,000,000.00) is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the funds of the National
37 Treasury not otherwise appropriated.
38

39 The subsequent annual funding shall also partly come from [one percent (1%)] **THREE**
40 **PERCENT (3%)** of the net income of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and
41 [one percent (1%)] **THREE PERCENT (3%)** of the proceeds and sales and other disposition
42 and military camps in Metro Manila by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.
43

44 The proceeds from any contract relating to the depiction of a crime in a movie, book,
45 newspaper, magazine, radio or television production, or live entertainment, of any kind, or in
46 any other form of commercial exploitation of any convict's story, recollection, opinion and
47 emotions with regard to the offense committed shall not be released to convict in a criminal
48 case or his heirs, agents, assignees or successors in interest until full compensation for damages
49 suffered by or awarded to the victim, his heirs or successors in interest is paid or arranged for,
50 and the state is able to collect/assess fines and costs and any other amounts due it in case of a
51 conviction by final judgment. Such damages shall include, but shall not be limited to, judicial
52 awards, funeral expenses, medical expenses, lost earning and the like.
53

54 To ensure the continuity of the funding requirements under this Act, the amount of
55 [Five Pesos (P5.00)] **THIRTY PESOS (P30.00)** shall be set aside from each filing fee in every

1 civil case filed with the court, the total proceeds of which shall constitute the Victim's
2 Compensation Fund to be administered by the Department of Justice."

3
4 **SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations,
5 or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, or
6 modified accordingly.

7
8 **SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
9 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

10
11 *Approved,*