

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1413

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines has long been the defender of our freedom and protector of our people. Our soldiers have placed themselves in the forefront of conflicts and calamities. It is only just that we provide them with proper assistance as they transition from active service to private citizenry. One area that we need to address is the transfer of care from the Department of National Defense (DND) to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO). Our veterans face unnecessary difficulties during such transfer. DND and PVAO should be more proactive and relieve our veterans of the hassles of transferring.

This bill seeks to mandate the DND and PVAO to provide for an automatic transfer of record of qualified veterans upon separation of service. This measure was previously filed by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago in the 15th Congress. Passage of this Bill is earnestly sought now in the 16th Congress.


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

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AN ACT
TO IMPROVE THE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE AND THE PHILIPPINE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO
BETTER PROVIDE CARE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES
AND VETERANS

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 "Veterans Transitional Assistance Act."

SECTION 2. Transmittal of Records. - Upon the discharge or release of a member of the Armed Forces, the Department of National Defense shall transmit the military service record and contact information of the member to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO).

SECTION 3. Contacting the Veterans. - PVAO shall contact each person for whom the office receives a military service record and contact information under Section 2 not later than 30 days after the date on which the office receives such record and information, and shall provide to the person such forms and other information as may be necessary for the person to apply for any benefits, including medical benefits, to which the person may be entitled under the laws administered by PVAO.

SECTION 4. Report. - Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of National Defense and the Director of PVAO shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of this section.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6, Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,