

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4024**



Introduced by **HONORABLE EDCCEL "GREX" B. LAGMAN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Congress has defined Hazard Pay as a "premium given only to government personnel exposed to hazardous situations such as, but not limited to, assignment in strife-torn or embattled areas, distressed or isolated stations, prison camps, mental hospitals, leprosaria, radiation-exposed clinics/laboratories/workshops, disease-infested areas and areas declared under state of calamity or emergency which pose occupational risks or perils to life." The nature of the work of Regional Trial Court Judges expose them to risks and perils to life considering the fact that Regional Trial Court Judges handle heinous crimes, syndicated crimes and drug cases. They also run the risk of being at the receiving end of disgruntled litigants' ire who instead of exhausting their legal remedies opt to put the law in their hands. The judges being the front-liners of the judiciary since they conduct their hearings of cases on a daily basis are exposed to the litigants that make them accessible.

The Amnesty International has placed the Philippines judges among those most at risk of assassination. Data shows that from 1991 to 2012, twenty-two (22) judges have been murdered or assassinated, thus, making it an average of two (2) judges killed every year.

The Regional Trial Court Judges, through their organization, the Philippine Judges Association have initially negotiated for accident and life insurance from insurance providers but the latter impose prohibitive premiums because their actuaries have classified judges as "high risk" due to the nature of their work, thus even insurance providers acknowledge the perils to life and limb of their profession.

Just as the public servants whom the law has granted hazard pay, it is imperative for the State to provide hazard pay to the Regional Trial Court Judges equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of their monthly basic salary since they are also "exposed to hazardous situations...which pose occupational risks or perils to life."

Thus, for a more effective and efficient administration of justice, it is imperative for Congress to provide hazard pay for the Regional Trial Court Judges, hence, the approval of the bill to grant hazard pay to the Regional Trial Court Judges equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of their monthly basic salary is earnestly encouraged.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edcel B. Lagman".

EDCEL "GREX" B. LAGMAN

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AN ACT
GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGES AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. All duly appointed judges in the Regional Trial Court shall be granted a hazard pay during their incumbency in the amount equivalent to twenty-five percent (25%) of their basic monthly salary.

SEC. 2. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Judicial Department under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the Judicial Department.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, in any manner, any benefit granted by existing laws, rules and regulations, local ordinances and other issuances especially favorable to duly appointed judges of the Regional Trial Court.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management shall within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette and two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,