

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **4351**

INTRODUCED BY REP. HERMINIA B. ROMAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 1990, R.A. No. 6948 entitled "An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents" was enacted to provide for an updated and rationalized benefits system for our war veterans. In 1994, R.A. No. 6948 was amended by RA No. 7696, which provided for another type of pension, the Total Administrative Disability (TAD). Veterans, upon reaching 70 years old, are considered totally disabled and will be entitled to a monthly pension of P1,700.00 plus P500.00 for the spouse and each unmarried minor children.

This benefit, however, remained unfunded for almost 16 years mainly because the Executive department never included it in its annual budget submissions to Congress. In April 2010, a total of P149,100.00 representing 7 years and 9 months of TAD pension, was released to World War II veterans 80 years old and above. On January 2011, the P1,700.00 TAD monthly pension was fully implemented for eligible WWII veterans and on September 24, 2013, all the remaining arrears from 1994 to 2002 were fully paid out.

As of January 2014, the unpaid obligations of the National Government to the veterans for the TAD pension amounted to P17.6 billion pesos. This proposed bill seeks to stop the ballooning obligations by deleting the provision which mandates the aforesaid administrative total disability pension. The bill is prospective, not retroactive, in its effectivity. This means that those who have been entitled to this benefit have acquired a vested right which shall not be taken away by this bill. However, those who have not reached 70 years old upon its effectivity shall not anymore be entitled to this benefit.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Herminia B. Roman
HERMINIA B. ROMAN

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AN ACT

FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT
STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS
AND THEIR DEPENDENTS," AS AMENDED

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 5 (h) of RA 6948, as amended is hereby amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (h) If and while the disability is rated anywhere from ninety-one to one
4 hundred per centum (91%-100%), the monthly pension shall be One thousand
5 seven hundred pesos (P1,700.00): plus Five hundred pesos (P500.00) for the
6 spouse and each unmarried minor children[:]. [Provided, That a veteran, with or
7 without a service-connected or nonservice connected disability, upon reaching
8 the age of seventy (70) is deemed totally disabled with one hundred per centum
9 (100%) rating and shall be entitled to a monthly pension of One thousand seven
10 hundred pesos (P1,700.00) plus Five hundred pesos (P500.00) for the spouse
11 and each unmarried minor children.]

12 SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. – All laws or parts thereof which are inconsistent
13 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

14 SEC. 3. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general
16 circulation.

17 Approved,