

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4450**



Introduced by **Hon. Samuel D. Pagdilao**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The President is the leader of our country. He is a visible national symbol and a chief representative of our country in the family of nations. As President, he assumes many roles and functions. He is the Chief Executive of the State in charge of running the government and making sure that all laws are enforced accordingly. Further, the President is also the Commander-in-Chief of all armed forces. Thus, the President is primarily responsible for the maintenance of peace and order, internal security and national defense. Finally, the President is also responsible for recommending and certifying to Congress priority bills for it to pass and unless the President signs a bill it cannot become a law.

With the services rendered by the President, it is but proper that the State duly recognizes his great contribution to Nation building and in promoting the welfare of the people. Unfortunately, when a President retires from office, he or she receives no other assistance from the government aside from his or her GSIS benefits.

This bill seeks to provide former Presidents lifetime pensions and office allowances, including security and protection. This bill would also provide lifetime pension to a widow/widower of a former President.

The purpose of this bill is to provide recognition and gratitude to a former President for his services to our country, which in all cases, do not end with his or her term of office, as he/she will continue his/her role as a moral voice of our Nation and also to enable a former President to enjoy a dignified retirement without having to engage in any occupation that might demean or commercialize the office he once held.

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


SAMUEL D. PAGDILAO

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND
SECURITY PROTECTION FOR RETIRED PRESIDENTS**

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

Section 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as “*Retired
Presidents Protection Act of 2014.*”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide recognition and gratitude to a retired President’s service to our Nation, which in all cases, does not end with his/her term of office, as he/she will continue to be a representative of our State. Towards this end, the State shall provide retired President’s lifetime pensions and other benefits which suits for his or her stature as a former leader of the State.

Section 3. Definition of Terms – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- (a) Retired President – refers to (i) any person who has served and held the full term of Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines and has ceased to hold such Office upon expiration of such term; or (ii) any person who has succeeded as President and has served as such more than four years; or (iii) any person who resign as President before his or her official term

of office expire except those who resigned or has been removed from office due to impeachment.

- (b) Dependents – refers to the surviving spouse of a retired President including their minor children.

Section 4. *Transition Benefits* – The Office of the President is authorized to provide, upon request, to each retired President, for a period not to exceed six months from the date of the expiration of his term of office as President, for use in connection with winding up the affairs of his/her office, necessary services and facilities, including but not limited to the following:

1. Suitable office space appropriately equipped with furniture, furnishings, office machines and equipment, and office supplies as determined by the Office of the President, after consultation with the retired President;
2. Payment of the compensation of members of office staffs designated by the retired President. *Provided*, That any employee of any agency of any branch of the Government may be detailed to such staffs on a reimbursable or non reimbursable basis with the consent of the head of the agency; and while so detailed such employee shall be responsible only to the retired President. *Provided further*, That any employee so detailed shall continue to receive the compensation provided pursuant to law for his regular employment, and shall retain the rights and privileges of such employment without interruption.
3. Payment of expenses for the procurement of services of experts or consultants or organizations thereof for the retired President, at rates not to exceed those as set by the Office of the President.

4. Payment of travel expenses and subsistence allowances, including rental of Government or hired motor vehicles, found necessary by the retired President provided that such travel shall relate to the duties of a retired President as a representative of the State;
5. Communications services found necessary by the retired President;
6. Other such benefits and expenses as may be reasonably necessary for the transition of duties of the retired President.

In all cases, the Office of the President shall spend no funds for the provision of services and facilities under this Act in connection with any obligations incurred by the retired President before the day following the date of the general elections held to determine the electors of the President, or after the inauguration of the President-elect as President.

Section 5. *Retirement Benefits*—Each retired President shall be entitled for the remainder of his life to receive from the National Treasury an annual pension, payable monthly by the Office of the President, at a rate equal to the basic salary he/she was receiving at the time of his/her retirement or resignation. However, such pension or allowance shall not be paid for any period during which such retired President holds an appointive or elective office or position in or under the Government.

Provided, that the surviving spouse of a retired President shall be entitled to receive from the National Treasury a monetary allowance at a rate of equal to what is provided for a retired President when he or she is still alive, payable monthly by the Office of the President, provided further that the surviving spouse

cannot avail of this monetary allowance unless he or she shall waive the right to any other annuity or pension to which he or she is entitled under any other laws. The monetary allowance of such surviving spouse –

1. Commences on the day after the retired President dies; and
2. Terminates on the last day of the month before such surviving spouse—
 - (a) Dies; or
 - (b) Remarries; or
 - (c) Holds an appointive or elective office or position in or under the Government.

Section 6. *Security Protection* – Reasonable but adequate security by the Presidential Security Group, as authorized under this Act, shall be provided for a retired President and his/her surviving spouse during their lifetime except when such surviving spouse remarries. Provided, that the same security protection shall also be accorded to the children of a retired President until they reach 18 years of age.

Section 7. *Rules and Regulations*. – The Office of the President, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

Section 8. *Separability Clause*. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.