

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7588



Introduced by Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez

**AN ACT GRANTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THE SURVIVING
LEGITIMATE SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF A DECEASED RETIRED
MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION SERVICE (NPS), APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Prosecution Service (NPS) is an integral part of our criminal justice system. Our prosecutors represent the People of the Philippines in criminal cases, and they are tasked to deliver justice to the victims of crimes, such as rape, murder, robbery, terrorism, violations of constitutional rights, defamation, possession and use of dangerous drugs, and reckless imprudence.

Because of the nature of their duties, prosecutors' lives are always on the line. Just last July 8, 2020, Prosecutor Jovencio Senados was shot and killed in broad daylight along Quirino Avenue in the City of Manila. His killing, still unresolved, has bereaved his grieving wife and children. These incidents are within the realm of possibility in the life of every prosecutor, and as such it is only proper that we give their families safety nets in the event they lose their loved ones.

This bill seeks to grant survivorship benefits to surviving spouses and children of retired and retireable prosecutors, in order to allow them to continue to receive retirement benefits. This is not an additional strain on the national budget, because this is merely a continuation of the payment of pensions to the survivors of the deceased prosecutors.

Considering the rationale stated above, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

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

Section 1. Survivorship Benefits. – In case of the death of a retired member of the National Prosecution Service (NPS) or a member of thereof who is eligible to retire optionally at the time of death, the surviving legitimate spouse and dependent children of said deceased member shall be entitled to receive all the retirement benefits that the prosecutors in the office of the Secretary of Justice, the Regional Prosecution Offices, and Offices of the Provincial and City Prosecutors. A “dependent” means a legitimate, illegitimate, or legally adopted child who is chiefly dependent on the said deceased member of the NPS if said dependent is not more than twenty-one (21) years of age, unmarried, and not gainfully employed, or if such dependent, regardless of age, is incapable of self-support because of mental or physical defect. The said surviving legitimate spouse shall continue to receive such retirement benefits during his/her lifetime until he/she remarries: Provided, the surviving spouse and dependent children shall each equally share the retirement benefits, Provided, further, in case the deceased member has no surviving legitimate spouse and dependent children, the parents of said decedent shall receive such retirement benefits.

Section 2. Appropriations. – Funds for the initial implementation of this act shall be taken out from the current appropriations for the retirement of members of the NPS; thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation hereof shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 3. Retroactivity. – The benefits mentioned in Section 1 hereof shall be granted to aforementioned survivors of the National Prosecution Service, including those who die one (1) year prior to the effectivity of this Act.

Section 4. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect 15 days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,