

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 158



Introduced by Representative Jose Manuel F. Alba

AN ACT

**PROVIDING AN OPTION FOR QUALIFIED MEMBERS IN THE
NONCAREER SERVICE TO PAY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The GSIS is a social insurance program for government employees in the Philippines, including elected officials. Under the law, elected officials who are members of the GSIS are required to complete a minimum of fifteen years of service to be entitled to retirement benefits. However, some elected officials may not have completed the required minimum years of service due to various reasons such as failure to be elected again for public office or inability to be employed in any government position.

This law provides an option for these elected officials to complete the fifteen year minimum requirement of GSIS by making voluntary contributions. By completing the required years of contributions, said member will become eligible for retirement benefits from the GSIS.

Overall, this measure aims to provide a voluntary option for elected

officials to complete their required minimum years of contribution to the GSIS.

It is crucial to point out that this bill was already deliberated upon by relevant government agencies and civil society groups during the 19th Congress, was approved by the House of Representatives and was transmitted and received by the Senate of the Philippines.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate consideration and approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



JOSE MANUEL F. ALBA

Representative, 1st District, Bukidnon

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 (b) of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8291, otherwise
known as “The Government Service Insurance System Act of 1997”, is
hereby amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 13. Retirement Benefits. –

x x x

(b) Unless the service is extended by appropriate
authorities, retirement shall be compulsory for an employee at
sixty-five (65) years of age, with at least fifteen (15) years of
service: *Provided, That* [if he] **A MEMBER WHO** has less than
fifteen (15) years of service [, he] may be allowed to continue in

the service in accordance with existing civil 3 service rules and regulations[.]: **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT A MEMBER IN THE NON-CAREER SERVICE, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 9, CHAPTER 2, SUBTITLE A, TITLE I, BOOK V, OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987," MAY AVAIL OF THE RETIREMENT AND OTHER APPLICABLE BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT, AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 13-B HEREIN."**

SEC. 2. Section 13-A of RA 8291 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 13-A. Conditions for Entitlement. – A member who retires from the service shall be entitled to the retirement benefits in 15 paragraph (a) of Section hereof: *Provided, That THE MEMBER:*

- (1) [he] has rendered at least fifteen (15) years of service;
- (2) [he] is at least sixty (60) years of age at the time of retirement; and
- (3) [he] is not receiving a monthly pension benefit from permanent total disability."

SEC. 3. A new Section 13-B is hereby inserted to RA 8291, to read as follows

"SEC. 13-B. OPTION FOR MEMBERS IN THE NON-CAREER SERVICE. – A MEMBER IN THE NON-CAREER SERVICE WHO HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) YEARS OF PREMIUM SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO PAY THE FULL PREMIUMS, REPRESENTING THE PERSONAL AND AGENCY SHARE, UNTIL SUCH MEMBER SHALL HAVE COMPLETED THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF YEARS TO QUALIFY FOR RETIREMENT BENEFIT: *PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE G SIS SHALL ALLOW A MEMBER TO PAY THE PREMIUM FOR A LOWER SALARY GRADE, UNDER REASONABLE TERMS AND CONDITIONS, TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY ON THE PART OF THE MEMBER."*

SEC. 4. Nothing herein shall diminish the retirement and separation benefits already enjoyed under the existing laws at the time of retirement.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the GSIS shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 6. If any provision of this Act or part hereof is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. All laws, executive and administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,