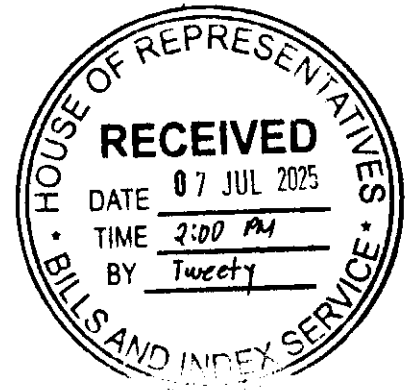


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1448**



Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life and liberty and property and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of the democracy. This constitutional mandate is largely grounded on an independent and fearless judiciary, as it is the adjudicator of legal disputes. As such, there is a need to protect the welfare of members of the judiciary.

This bill seeks to grant a tax-exempt hazard pay to judges of Municipal Trial Courts (MTC), Metropolitan Trial Courts (MeTC), Municipal Trial Courts in Cities (MCTC), Municial Circuit Trial Courts (MCTC), Shari'a Courts, and Regional Trial Court (RTC) equivalent to twenty percent (20%) to thirty percent (30%) of their monthly salaries during their incumbency.

Being a democracy, the Philippines should ensure the application and promotion of the rule of law, rooted in an independent judiciary. Pursuant to this, the State must adopt measures to guarantee the independence of the judiciary to guarantee the impartial administration of justice, as well as an effective and efficient system worthy of public trust and confidence. News reports of killings of members of the judiciary abound, Congress should not turn a blind eye on this matter as it may diminish the confidence of our judges. The payment of a hazard pay aims to boost the morale of judges and enhance their independence in the dispensation of justice.

For the Filipino people, ~~the~~ approval of the foregoing bill is earnestly being sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'A' followed by a horizontal stroke.

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1448**

Introduced by the **Honorable ANIELA BIANCA D. TOLENTINO**

**AN ACT MANDATING THE PAYMENT OF HAZARD PAY TO
ALL JUDGES OF COURTS IN THE PHILIPPINES,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "*Hazard Pay for Judges Act*":

SECTION 2. All duly appointed judges in Regional Trial Courts (RTC) shall be granted a hazard pay during their incumbency in the amount equivalent to thirty percent (30%) of their basic monthly salary.

SECTION 3. All duly appointed judges in the Metropolitan Trial Courts (MeTC), Municipal Trial Courts in Cities (MCTC), Municipal Circuit Trial Courts (MCTC), and Shari'a Courts shall be granted a hazard pay during their incumbency in the amount equivalent to twenty five percent (25%) of their basic monthly salary.

SECTION 4. All duly appointed judges in Municipal Trial Courts (MTC) shall be granted a hazard pay during their incumbency in the amount equivalent to twenty percent (20%) of their basic monthly salary.

SECTION 5. The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the Judiciary under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sums as maybe necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. The hazard pay for the judges herein shall not be subject to tax and 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 Philippine courts.

SECTION 7. The Department of Budget and Management in consultation with the Judiciary shall, within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 8. Any provisions, laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed and modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,