

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2395



Introduced by **HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

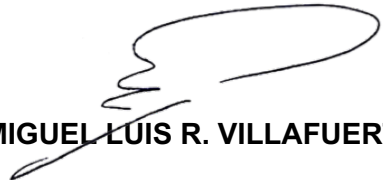
Working in the Philippine government, whether in education, health, and other public service sectors is an increasingly demanding profession, physically, emotionally, and psychologically. Many employees are exposed to highly stressful environments or physically strenuous duties. For instance, according to the latest UNESCO data, the country grapples with an average primary-level class size of approximately 24 pupils per teacher.¹ Public school teachers routinely manage instruction, administrative tasks, advisory duties, co-curricular programs, and even school-related responsibilities during vacation periods. This extended workload exacts a heavy toll on their health over time.

As a result, many retire still burdened by chronic ailments. Their limited retirement benefits are often spent on medical expenses, rather than supporting a restful retirement. Lowering the optional retirement age from 60 to 56 would offer government workers a fair opportunity to recover and enjoy a healthier, more fulfilling post-service phase.

This proposed measure aligns with Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which provides that "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." Ensuring that government workers are given the option to retire earlier is a tangible step toward fulfilling this mandate.

A similar bill was approved by the House of Representatives and transmitted to the Senate during the 19th Congress.

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


HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE

¹ UNESCO Institute for Statistics via Our World in Data, *Philippines Primary Pupil-Teacher Ratio, 2023*.
<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/pupil-teacher-ratio-for-primary-education-by-country?time=2023>



HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE



HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA



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**AN ACT LOWERING THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AGE OF GOVERNMENT
WORKERS FROM SIXTY (60) YEARS TO FIFTY-SIX (56) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 13-A OF REPUBLIC ACT 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997”**

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

SECTION 1. Section 13-A of Republic Act 8291, otherwise known as “*The Government
Service Insurance System Act of 1997*,” 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 enumerated in paragraph (a) of Section 13 hereof:
Provided, That **SUCH MEMBER:**

- (1) [he] has rendered at least (15) years of service;
- (2) [he] is at least [~~sixty (60)~~] **FIFTY-SIX (56)** years of age at the time of retirement;
and
- (3) [he] is not receiving a monthly pension benefit from permanent total disability.

SECTION. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or other
issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or
modified accordingly.

SECTION. 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,