

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4074



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8291, also known as the "Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Act of 1997," provides that a minimum of fifteen (15) years of government service is generally required to qualify for full retirement benefits. However, many employees are forced to leave their positions after nine (9) years or more due to career changes, health issues, political shifts, or organizational restructuring. As a result, they are unable to complete the required years of service and often miss out on the full benefits they have earned—benefits that they have rightfully earned and deserve for dedicating their prime years in government service.

This bill seeks to propose a solution by permitting voluntary GSIS membership for individuals with at least 9 years of government service, allowing them to continue paying both employer and employee contributions until they accumulate 15 years of credited service. This would qualify them for full retirement and other GSIS benefits, even after leaving government employment.

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

ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP IN THE
GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS),
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE
INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997"

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

SECTION 1. – A subsection is herein inserted after Section 3 of Republic Act No. 8291 (R.A. No. 8291), also known as "The Government Service Insurance Act of 1997," to read as follows:

"SECTION 3A. VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP. - ANY MEMBER WHO HAS RENDERED AT LEAST NINE (9) YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE GOVERNMENT MAY OPT TO CONTINUE PAYING FOR THE REMAINING CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED FOR ENTITLEMENT TO FULL BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT: PROVIDED, THAT THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF THE REMAINING MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS BY BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE EMPLOYEE SHALL BE ENTIRELY BORNE BY THE MEMBER."

SECTION 2. – Section 4 of R.A. No. 8291 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 4. *Effect of Separation from the Service.* - A member separated from the service shall continue to be entitled to whatever benefits he has qualified to in the event of any contingency compensable under this Act[-] WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHT OF THE

SAID MEMBER TO OPT FOR VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP TO THE GSIS AS PROVIDED IN THE PRECEDING SECTION.”

SECTION 3. – Section 13 (b) of R.A. No. 8291 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 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 an employee who has less than fifteen (15) years of service, the employee may be allowed to continue in the service in accordance with existing civil service rules and regulations: **PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT AN EMPLOYEE WHO HAS RENDERED AT LEAST NINE (9) YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE MAY AVAIL OF THE VOLUNTARY MEMBERSHIP PROVIDED IN SECTION 3A HEREOF FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING THE CONTRIBUTIONS EQUIVALENT TO FIFTEEN (15) YEARS OF SERVICE FOR ENTITLEMENT TO FULL BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT.”**

SECTION 4. – Section 13-A of R.A. No. 8291 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“SECTION 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 fifteen (15) years of service, **OR HAS COMPLETED THE CONTRIBUTIONS EQUIVALENT TO FIFTEEN (15) YEARS AS A VOLUNTARY MEMBER OF THE GSIS PURSUANT TO SECTION 3A OF THIS ACT.**
- (2) [~~he~~ ~~has~~] 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.”

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,