

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5181



Introduced by Rep. Rudy S. Caoagdan, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to amend the definition of dependent surviving spouse, child or children entitled to support, of the veteran to mean that the veteran's surviving spouse must have been *married to the deceased veteran prior to the latter's retirement/separation from the service*, child *born of his marriage contracted prior to his retirement/separation from the service*, children, *adopted or acknowledged, while the deceased parent was still on active military service.*

The proposed amendment will align the provisions of two (2) laws governing the retirement and pension benefits of our veterans, namely: Presidential Decree No. 1638 and Republic Act No. 6948, as amended, for policy consistency.

Further, it recognizes the sacrifices of the spouse and children who played critical roles in managing the household, supporting the soldier's career, and dealing with the stresses of military life. It also encourages commitment among soldiers and their spouses, reinforcing the idea that the military traditionally values those who support their loved ones throughout their services.


RUDY S. CAOAGDAN, DPA

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AN ACT
REDEFINING THE TERMS "DEPENDENT, SURVIVING SPOUSE, AND
CHILD/CHILDREN" AS DEFINED IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, AS AMENDED

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

1 **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to provide
2 immediate and adequate care, benefits and other forms of assistance to the war
3 veterans, their surviving spouses and orphans by alleviating their living conditions
4 through policies that provide for a decent and humane condition of living and improved
5 quality of life.

6
7 **SEC. 2.** SEC. 2 of RA 6948, as amended is hereby further amended to read as
8 follows:

9
10 **"SEC 2. Definitions** – For purposes of this Act, the following refer to:

11
12 **"XXX**

13
14 **(i) Dependent.** – REFERS TO any spouse MARRIED TO THE
15 DECEASED PRIOR TO THE LATTER'S
16 RETIREMENT/SEPARATION FROM THE SERVICE, CHILD BORN
17 OF HIS MARRIAGE CONTRACTED PRIOR TO HIS
18 RETIREMENT/SEPARATION FROM THE SERVICE, CHILDREN,
19 ADOPTED OR ACKNOWLEDGED, WHILE THE DECEASED
20 PARENT WAS STILL ON ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE or parent
21 who is/ARE wholly under the care and support of the veteran.

22
23 **(j) Surviving Spouse.** – REFERS TO the lawful widow or widower of the
24 deceased veteran, or the innocent spouse if he or she was legally
25 separated by final judicial decree from the deceased, AND

1 MARRIED TO THE DECEASED PRIOR TO THE LATTER'S
2 RETIREMENT/SEPARATION.
3

4 (k) *Children.* – includes any child BORN OF HIS MARRIAGE
5 CONTRACTED PRIOR TO HIS RETIREMENT/SEPARATION FROM
6 THE SERVICE, entitled to support from the veteran under existing
7 laws: PROVIDED, THAT THE ENTITLEMENT TO BENEFITS SHALL
8 TERMINATE WHEN SUCH CHILDREN ATTAIN EIGHTEEN (18)
9 YEARS OF AGE.
10

11 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** - All existing laws or parts thereof inconsistent with
12 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
13

14 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
15 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
16 circulation.
17

18
19 Approved,