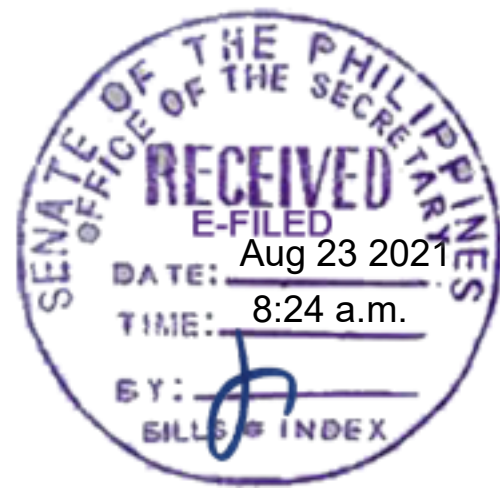


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



S.B. No. 2347

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PANFILO LACSON

**AN ACT
ADJUSTING THE MONTHLY PENSION AND DISABILITY BENEFITS
OF RETIREES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The bill seeks to increase the monthly pension and disability benefits of retirees of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to be at par with the current pay scale enjoyed by those in active service. This is an important step to duly compensate Philippine foreign service personnel whose invaluable services to the country have helped advance the Philippine interests, improve relations with other countries, and protect Filipinos globally.

Personnel of the DFA are at the frontlines of Philippine foreign relations, sometimes risking their lives under dangerous conditions in their countries of assignment. While in active service, diplomats have demonstrated their resilience as the Philippines' first line of representation in dealing with a plethora of concerns. Their initiative, competence, professionalism, and creativity have resulted in enduring bilateral and multilateral partnerships, strategic agreements and collaborative engagements that continue to be harnessed for our people's benefits.

Such complex responsibilities require DFA personnel to be vigilant and ready to perform their duties at all times. As specialists in the arena of diplomacy and citizen services abroad, foreign service personnel deserve to be honored and

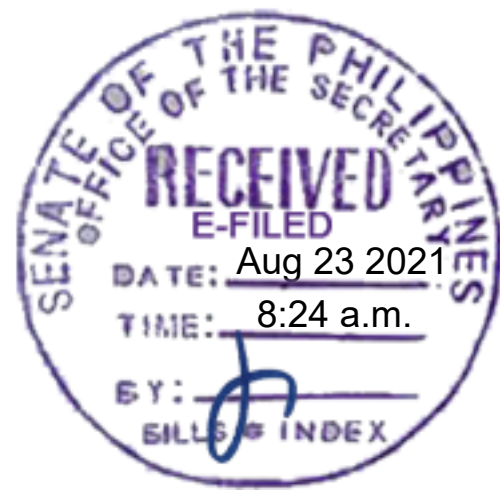
cared for in their retirement through an adjustment of monthly pension, and thereby allowing them to afford a decent living in the face of inflation and rising cost of living.

With all these being said, it is the intention of this bill to provide both present and future retirees of the foreign service support that is adequate and responsive to their needs, and to reassure them that their dedication and loyalty to the Filipino people is not forgotten.

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


PANFILO M. LACSON
Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)



S.B. No. 2347

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR PANFILO LACSON

AN ACT
ADJUSTING THE MONTHLY PENSION AND DISABILITY BENEFITS
OF RETIREES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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

1 **Section 1. Coverage.** This Act shall only apply to retired officers or
2 employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) who have served in the
3 DFA for at least 15 years and are eligible to receive monthly pensions from the
4 Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

5
6 **Section 2. Adjustment of Monthly Pension.** The monthly pension
7 benefits of all retirees of the DFA, as provided under Republic Act No. 7157,
8 shall be automatically adjusted at the same rate as any future or subsequent
9 increase in the salary grade of the same rank he or she retired from.

10
11 **Section 3. Additional Entitlements.** All officers and employees covered
12 by Section 1 of this Act, shall be eligible for disability and death benefits in the
13 same manner provided under the GSIS Act, as amended, and other relevant
14 laws.

15 **Section 4. Retroactive Effect.** The benefits under this Act shall also be
16 granted to all retirees of the DFA who retired prior to the effectivity of this Act in
17 the same manner provided in Section 2 hereof.

18
19 **Section 5. Survivorship Benefits.** In case of death of a DFA retiree or
20 personnel who has met the requirements provided in Section 1, the following

1 shall be entitled to receive the adjusted retirement benefits that the deceased
2 was receiving or entitled to receive: (a) his or her surviving legitimate spouse,
3 during his or her lifetime, or until he or she remarries; and (b) dependent minor
4 children until he/she reaches the age of majority. Said benefits shall be
5 distributed or apportioned in accordance with the GSIS Act, as amended.
6

7 **Section 6. Appropriation and Funding Source.** – The differential
8 funding requirements for the initial implementation of this Act shall be sourced
9 from any available savings of the DFA.
10

11 Thereafter, the annual differential amount necessary for GSIS to pay the
12 adjusted monthly pension and other benefits to implement the provisions of this
13 Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act annually. The funding
14 thereof shall be sourced from the DFA's annual consular income as a
15 percentage thereof.
16

17 **Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within (90) days
18 after the effectivity of this Act, DFA shall issue the necessary rules and
19 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act, in coordination with
20 relevant government agencies.
21

22 **Section 8. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared
23 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected shall continue
24 to be in full force and effect.
25

26 **Section 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, or
27 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby
28 repealed or modified accordingly.
29

30 **Section 10. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)
31 days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general
32 circulation.

Approved,