

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
S.B. No. 2355

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution recognizes the significant role of our Armed Forces as the protector of the people, tasked to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory. With the enormity of these tasks, there arises a need to uphold professionalism in the Armed Forces and ensure the adequate remuneration of its members.

The hard reality, however, is that our uniformed personnel remain among the lowest paid public servants. While their salary follows the basic salary standardization scheme, the dangerous circumstances under which they sometimes perform their duties in the combat zone entitles them to additional remuneration in the form of combat pay.

Current computations peg the combat duty pay of officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) at a measly P240.00 per month. This insignificant amount hardly reflects a recognition on the part of government of the fact that while soldiers are in a combat zone, they are in an immediate state of danger and, therefore, deserve special compensation.

The last increase of the Combat Duty Pay was effected some 22 years ago through Executive Order No. 1017 dated 22 March 1985. It is high time that the computation be reviewed and, if necessary, adjusted.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
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AN ACT
INCREASING THE COMBAT DUTY PAY OF ALL ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF
THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%)
OF THEIR BASE PAY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. Increase in Combat Duty Pay.** - In line with the declared policy
2 of the State to promote professionalism in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)
3 and ensure the adequate remuneration and benefits of its members, the Combat
4 Duty Pay of all officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP is hereby increased from
5 two hundred forty pesos (P240.00) per month to an amount equivalent to twenty-
6 five percent (25%) of their base pay.

7

8 **SEC. 2. Appropriation.** - Such amount as may be necessary to implement this
9 Act for the current year shall be charged against the savings of the Department of
10 National Defense (DND). Thereafter, the National Government shall appropriate
11 annually and include in the General Appropriations Act the amount corresponding
12 to the total annual cost of the increase in Combat Duty Pay.

13

14 **SEC. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DND in coordination
15 with the AFP shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the
16 provisions of this Act.

17

18 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** - All provisions of any other laws, orders, acts,
19 decrees as well as rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or
20 modified accordingly.

1 **SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held
2 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions hereof which are not
3 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

4

5 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from
6 the date of its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

7

8 Approved,