



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 724

BY REPRESENTATIVES RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), MANDANAS,
ROMAN, ABAYA, EVARDONE AND KHO (D.)

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN OFFICE OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, PRESCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy
2 of the government to pursue the claims of Filipino veterans of World War II
3 and work for the full restoration of their rights, privileges and benefits from the
4 United States government.

5 SEC. 2. *Establishment of an Office of Veterans Affairs.* – For the
6 attainment of this goal, there is hereby created an Office of Veterans Affairs in
7 the Philippine Embassy in the United States of America mandated with the task
8 of making formal representations, consultations and negotiations or otherwise
9 cause the conduct of sustained and effective lobbying with appropriate offices
10 of the legislative and executive branches of the United States government and
11 other agencies and entities which can enhance the favorable consideration of

1 the claims of Filipino veterans. The office shall be in existence for five (5)
2 years from the date of approval of this Act or until the Filipino veterans shall
3 have availed of their legitimate claims, the time of which shall not exceed
4 another five (5) years.

5 SEC. 3. *Staffing.* – The Office of Veterans Affairs shall have a staff
6 consisting of a head of office appointed by the President of the Philippines,
7 two (2) administrative assistants assigned by the Secretary of the Department
8 of National Defense and such other locally hired personnel as the head of
9 office may find necessary. The Veterans Federation of the Philippines shall
10 submit a list of five (5) persons who could head the Office of Veterans Affairs
11 and one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines as a
12 special presidential representative who shall have a comparable diplomatic
13 rank.

14 SEC. 4. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial
15 implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's
16 appropriations for the operational requirements of the Ad Hoc Veterans Affairs
17 Office in Washington D.C. authorized under the budget of the Philippine
18 Veterans Affairs Office. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
19 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General
20 Appropriations Act.

21 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* -- This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,