



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 1222

BY REPRESENTATIVES RODRIGUEZ (R.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), ABAYON, ROMAN, SY-ALVARADO, REYES, ALEJANO, MERCADO-REVILLA, BATAOIL, FORTUNO, LOYOLA, ACEDILLO, PICHAY, UNGAB, NAVA (J.), ALMARIO, LOBREGAT, PIAMONTE, VIOLAGO, QUISUMBING, ONG, TING, TAN (A.), ILAGAN, VILLARICA, TEJADA, ALMONTE, HAGEDORN, RIVERA, BELLO (S.), NOGRALES, ABUEG, GARCIA (G.), RAMOS, GONZALEZ, PAEZ, KHO, HOFER, ABU, ALIPING, SUANSING, DELA CRUZ, MACROHON-NUÑO, GERONA-ROBREDO, ARENAS, CERAFICA AND PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING THE OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PRESCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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
4 the United States government.

5 SEC. 2. *Establishment of an Office of Veterans Affairs.* – For the
6 attainment of this policy, there is hereby created an Office of Veterans Affairs
7 in the Philippine Embassy in the United States of America mandated with the

1 task of making formal representations, consultations and negotiations or
2 otherwise cause the conduct of sustained and effective lobbying with
3 appropriate offices of the legislative and executive branches of the United
4 States government and other agencies and entities which can enhance the
5 favorable consideration of the claims of Filipino veterans. The Office shall be
6 in existence for five (5) years from the date of approval of this Act or until the
7 Filipino veterans shall have availed of their legitimate claims, the time of
8 which shall not exceed another five (5) years.

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

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

25 SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,