

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 68

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 7, 2003

Mr. INOUE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits for Filipino veterans of World War II, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Filipino Veterans’ Ben-
5 efits Improvements Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. RATE OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR**
7 **NEW PHILIPPINE SCOUTS RESIDING IN THE**
8 **UNITED STATES.**

9 (a) RATE OF PAYMENT.—Section 107 of title 38,
10 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in the second sentence of subsection (b), by
2 striking “Payments” and inserting “Except as pro-
3 vided in subsection (c), payments”; and

4 (2) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) by inserting “or (b)” after “subsection
6 (a)” the first place it appears; and

7 (B) by striking “subsection (a)” the second
8 place it appears and inserting “the applicable
9 subsection”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act, and shall apply to benefits paid for
13 months beginning on or after that date.

14 **SEC. 3. RATE OF PAYMENT OF DEPENDENCY AND INDEM-**
15 **NITY COMPENSATION FOR SURVIVING**
16 **SPOUSES OF CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERANS.**

17 (a) RATE OF PAYMENT.—Subsection (c) of section
18 107 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section
19 2 of this Act, is further amended by inserting “, and under
20 chapter 13 of this title,” after “chapter 11 of this title”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
22 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act, and shall apply to benefits paid for
24 months beginning on or after that date.

1 **SEC. 4. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN FILIPINO VETERANS FOR**
2 **DISABILITY PENSION.**

3 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 107 of title 38, United
4 States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (3) of the first sentence,
8 by inserting “15,” before “23,”; and

9 (B) in the second sentence, by striking
10 “subsections (c) and (d)” and inserting “sub-
11 sections (c), (d), and (e)”; and

12 (2) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) by striking paragraph (2) of the first
14 sentence and inserting the following new para-
15 graph (2):

16 “(2) chapters 11, 13 (except section 1312(a)),
17 and 15 of this title.”; and

18 (B) in the second sentence, by striking
19 “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsections (c)
20 and (e)”.

21 (b) **RATE OF PAYMENT.**—That section is further
22 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
23 section:

24 “(e) In the case of benefits under chapter 15 of this
25 title paid by reason of service described in subsection (a)
26 or (b), if—

1 “(1) the benefits are paid to an individual re-
2 siding in the United States who is a citizen of, or
3 an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence
4 in, the United States, the second sentence of the ap-
5 plicable subsection shall not apply; and

6 “(2) the benefits are paid to an individual re-
7 siding in the Republic of the Philippines, the bene-
8 fits shall be paid (notwithstanding any other provi-
9 sion of law) at the rate of \$100 per month.”.

10 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment
12 of this Act, and shall apply to benefits for months begin-
13 ning on or after that date.

14 **SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF FILIPINO VETERANS FOR HEALTH**
15 **CARE IN THE UNITED STATES.**

16 The text of section 1734 of title 38, United States
17 Code, is amended to read as follows:

18 “The Secretary, within the limits of Department fa-
19 cilities, shall furnish hospital and nursing home care and
20 medical services to Commonwealth Army veterans and
21 new Philippine Scouts in the same manner as provided
22 for under section 1710 of this title.”.

1 **SEC. 6. OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS RESID-**
 2 **ING IN THE PHILIPPINES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 17 of
 4 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 1735 as section
 6 1736; and

7 (2) by inserting after section 1734 the following
 8 new section 1735:

9 **“§ 1735. Outpatient care and services for World War**
 10 **II veterans residing in the Philippines**

11 “(a) OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE.—The Secretary
 12 shall furnish care and services to veterans of World War
 13 II, Commonwealth Army veterans, and new Philippine
 14 Scouts for the treatment of the service-connected disabil-
 15 ities and nonservice-connected disabilities of such veterans
 16 and scouts residing in the Republic of the Philippines on
 17 an outpatient basis at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic.

18 “(b) LIMITATIONS.—(1) The amount expended by
 19 the Secretary for the purpose of subsection (a) in any fis-
 20 cal year may not exceed \$500,000.

21 “(2) The authority of the Secretary to furnish care
 22 and services under subsection (a) is effective in any fiscal
 23 year only to the extent that appropriations are available
 24 for that purpose.”.

25 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 26 at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended

1 by striking the item relating to section 1735 and inserting
2 after the item relating to section 1734 the following new
3 items:

“1735. Outpatient care and services for World War II veterans residing in the
Philippines.

“1736. Definitions.”.

4 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
5 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment
6 of this Act.

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