



Republic of the Philippines
City of Bago
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD

EXCERPTS FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 46th REGULAR SESSION OF THE 20th SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE CITY OF BAGO HELD ON MAY 31, 2023, AT THE SP SESSION HALL, BAGO CITY.

PRESENT:

HON. RAMON D. TORRES	City Vice Mayor-Presiding Officer
HON. MARINA JAVELLANA-YAO	SP Member
HON. MA. JOSEFA Y. MATTI	SP Member
HON. IMELDA M. PRECION	SP Member
HON. JAKE PATRICK Y. TORRES	SP Member
HON. VICTOR MICHAEL A. JAVELLANA	SP Member
HON. CARLOS E. MONDIA	SP Member
HON. MA. FEMMY A. MARTIR	SP Member
HON. JOSEPH J. COLMENARES	SP Member
HON. JOBERT D. TAGOBADER	SP Member
HON. ROBERT J. JAVELLANA	SP Member
HON. SERGIO T. PIANSAY	SP Member-ABC President
HON. CARL BENEDICT Y. BAYLON	SP Member-SK Federation President

ABSENT:

NONE.

RESOLUTION NO. 23-207

RESOLUTION ENDORSING TO THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS TO REVIEW AND CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291 (GSIS LAW) AND RELATED LAWS ON RETIREMENT PACKAGES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR ALLOW VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO HAVE COMPLETED ONE, TWO, OR THREE TERMS IN OFFICE TO COMPLETE THE MINIMUM FIFTEEN YEARS OF PREMIUM CONTRIBUTION TO THE GSIS AND THE LOWERING OF THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AGE FOR GOVERNMENT WORKERS.

WHEREAS, a study on the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) retirement packages under RA 8291 was presented to Philippine Councilor's League (PCL), as the basis for the policy agenda during its 11th National Convention held at the World Trade Center on March 9-11, 2023;

WHEREAS, the study compared the retirement packages of the GSIS members provided under (a) RA 8291, (b) Commonwealth Act No. 186, (c) RA 660, and (d) RA 1616 vis-à-vis the retirement packages in the private sector in terms of computation, the difference in benefits, and economic factors affecting the retirement pay;

WHEREAS, based on the study, a huge gap exists between the retirement benefits provided for employees in the public sector and employees in the private sector mainly due to, among others, the basis for computing the same, which is the Average Monthly Compensation (AMC) for the last three (3) years, in the case of retirees from the public sector, thereby resulting to an amount lower than one (1) month of the last monthly salary; while that of the private sector is pegged at one (1) month or more of the last monthly salary, hence, the latter is higher in computation;

WHEREAS, there is also a strong clamor among the constituents represented by the PCL to lower the optional retirement age for government workers, similar to the clamor of those gathered from the formal and informal consultations conducted with Local Government Units, Human Resource Management Practitioners, Employees' Associations, and other government agencies;

WHEREAS, research shows that the Philippines is one of the countries with the oldest optional retirement age for government workers among its ASEAN counterparts;

WHEREAS, lowering the optional retirement age for government workers would provide opportunities for the next generation of civil servants and allow retirees to fully reap the fruits of their labor at an earlier stage of their lives;

WHEREAS, the Civil Service Commission (CSC), thru Commissioner Aileen Lizada is at the forefront of this proposed amendments to the GSIS Law and is fully supportive of the PCL Advocacy;

WHEREAS, Congressman Jose Manuel F. Alba (Bukidnon) has also filed House Bill No. 7334 entitled "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN OPTION FOR QUALIFIED ELECTED OFFICIALS TO PAY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM TO ENABLE THEM TO COMPLETE THE MINIMUM YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 13 AND 13-A OF REPUBLIC ACT 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE ACT OF 1997.

WHEREAS, it is strongly recommended that Congress;

- (a) Revisit, review, and amend the twenty-six (26)-year-old law, RA 8291, to provide higher retirement packages that are commensurate with the government employee's length of service,
- (b) Simplify the computation of pension based on the retiree's latest gross monthly salary in lieu of the three (3)-year Average Monthly Compensation (AMC);
- (c) Examine GSIS' management of the premiums paid by government employees, and
- (d) Propose a reduction in the optional retirement age for government workers;
- (e) Allow voluntary contribution for elected officials who have completed one, two, or three terms in office to complete the minimum fifteen years of minimum contribution to the GSIS;

WHEREAS, the PCL finds the above-mentioned recommendations responsive to the needs of the retiring government workers as these add more value to the hard-earned premiums they contributed during their productive years and provide them with the opportunity to reap the fruits of their retirement *after dedicating long years in government service*;

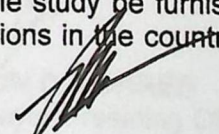
NOW, THEREFORE, on motion of SP Member Victor Michael A. Javellana, unanimously seconded by SP Members present, **BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Sangguniang Panlungsod of Bago City, Negros Occidental strongly urges the Philippine Congress to review and consider amendments to RA 8291 and related laws on GSIS retirement packages and to allow voluntary contribution for elected officials who have completed one, two or three terms in office to complete the minimum fifteen years of minimum contribution to the GSIS and lowering of the optional retirement age for government workers, among others, for humanitarian considerations and in pursuit of the promotion of the welfare of some 1.7 Million government workers who have dedicated a better part of their lives to serving the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution and the study on the Evaluation of GSIS Retirement Packages of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) be forwarded to the House of Representatives Committee on Revision of Laws chaired by Congressman Edward Vera Perez Maceda; House of Representatives Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation chaired by Congresswoman Kristine Alexie B. Tutor; Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez; Senate Committee on Health and Demography chaired by Senator Christopher Lawrence T. Go; Senate Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises chaired by Senator Alan Peter S. Cayetano; Senate Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization, and Professional Regulation chaired by Senator Ramon Revilla, Jr.; and Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, for their review and possible amendment of RA 8291.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of this resolution be furnished to the Civil Service Commission (CSC) thru the Honorable Commissioner Aileen Lizada for her information and appropriate action;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution and the study be furnished to all Regional Development Councils (RDCs) and other public sector organizations in the country for their support and consideration.

ATTESTED:


RAMON D. TORRES
City Vice Mayor-Presiding Officer

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


ATTY. ALLANO C. GALUNAN
Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod