

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 2917



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A clear policy is stated in the very language of Republic Act 8282 in Section 2 thereof that runs thus, "It is the policy of the State to establish, develop, promote and perfect a sound and viable tax-exempt social security system suitable to the needs of the people throughout the Philippines which shall promote social justice and provide meaningful protection to members and their families against the hazards of disability, sickness, maternity, old age, death, and other contingencies resulting in loss of income or financial burden. Toward this end, the State shall endeavor to extend social security protection to workers and their beneficiaries."

However, instead of social security system benefits immediately accruing and reaching the legitimate claimants and beneficiaries, many individuals suffer the brunt of a rather tedious, difficult, and delayed processing of applications upon submission of the applicants or claimants of all documentary requirements. This registers the fear and apprehension that they may not be able to receive these benefits at time and point of need which therefore causes them undue burden and betrays the very mission of the Social Security System to provide this social protection. More importantly, in no instance should the viability and integrity of the Reserve Fund be doubted in light of less-than-desired procedures in processing and in release of payments of claims.

In view of this sad state of affairs affecting hundreds upon hundreds of beneficiaries and their families, this humble representation earnestly requests timely approval of this measure.

PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

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AN ACT

MANDATING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM TO PROCESS AND TO PAY CLAIMS OF LEGITIMATE CLAIMANTS AND BENEFICIARIES WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS UPON FULL SUBMISSION OF ALL NECESSARY APPLICATION DOCUMENTS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "Expeditious Payment of SSS Benefits Act."

SEC. 2. There is hereby implemented expeditious system of processing and payment of claims of legitimate claimants and beneficiaries within thirty (30) days upon full submission of all necessary application documents thereof.

SEC. 3. Upon the effectivity of this Act, Social Security System shall issue and promulgate stricter and more simplified rules, regulations, mechanics, and guidelines in order to effectively expedite processing as well as payment of all claims under the System to legitimate claimants/beneficiaries and thereby cause the immediate enjoyment of said benefits.

SEC. 4. The claims hereto referred under this Act include maternity, sickness, retirement, disability, death, and funeral benefits. Further, these include the grants of various kinds of loans under the Systeml

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette and in at least three newspapers of general circulation thirty (30) days upon its approval.

Approved,