SENATE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

TENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC }
OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session }

'95 JUL -7 P4:19

SENATE

s. no. 836

RECEIVED BY: PH

Introduced by Senator Herrera

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to amend R.A. No. 1161, otherwise known as the Social Security Law, to widen the scope of coverage, further improve and rationalize the benefit structure, provide reasonable flexibility in the management of the reserve funds, streamline the organization, and strengthen the measures for enforcing the said law.

The salient features of the proposed amendments are as follows:

- (1) The exemptions from coverage of agricultural workers, domestic helpers, temporary workers, etc., are eliminated;
- (2) Under certain conditions, illegitimate children are now also considered dependents and beneficiaries;
- (3) The pension of retired pensioners who are reemployed before reaching age 65 years is no longer subject to reduction;
- (4) A pensioner who retires after the age of 60 years will now benefit from the benefit adjustments effected from the earliest time he could have retired had he ceased then from employment;
- (5) The lump sum benefits for death and total disability will be increased;
- (6) For purposes of adjudicating retirement, death and total disability benefits, contributions are deemed paid during the months when the employee received partial disability pension;
- (7) To rationalize SSS contributions and ensure a higher level of benefits, the minimum compensation base for contribution and benefits is fixed at P1,000.00 for both employed and self-employed persons;
- (8) As a general guideline for the investment of SSS reserve funds, the average annual income required is increased from 9% to 12%;

- (9) For flexibility, the minimum limit for housing and salary and other short-term member loans is fixed at 30% of investible funds, in lieu of 30% for housing and 10% for salary loans;
- (10) Greater access of employees and employers to SSS funds for their social impact projects is provided under conditions that still ensure the highest possible interest earnings consistent with safety; and
- (11) More effective sanctions are imposed to discourage yiolations of the Social Security Law;

It is hoped that with the enactment of this Bill into law, we shall have enhanced the Social Security System as a potent instrument of social and economic protection and assistance for our people even as its resources are prudently harnessed to contribute to the socio-economic development of our country.

Passage of this Bill is earnestly recommended.

ERNESTO F. HERRER

Senator

.95 JUL -7 P4:19

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AN ACT

FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMS IN FAVOR OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES THEREBY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 2 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended,

2 is hereby further amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the the Republic of the Philippines to policy of establish, develop, promote and perfect a sound 6 and viable tax-exempt social security PROGRAM [service] suitable to the needs of the people 8 throughout the Philippines which shall PROTECTION to covered 9 MEANINGFUL INDIVIDUALS 10 [employees] and their families [protection] 11 against CONTINGENCIES RESULTING IN LOSS OF 12 OR FINANCIAL BURDEN AND PROMOTE [the hazards of 13 disability, sickness, old age, and death, with a 14 view to promoting their well-being in the spirit 15 of] social justice." TOWARDS THIS END, THE STATE SHALL 16 **ENDEAVOR** TO EXTEND SOCIAL SECURITY 17 PROTECTION TO ALL FILIPINOS."

18 SEC. 2. Section 3 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, is

19 hereby further amended by amending paragraphs (a), (b)

20 and (c) to read as follows:

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Social Security System - (a) To

"SEC. 3.

2 carry out the purposes of this Act, the Social Security System with principal place of business 3 4 in Metro Manila, Philippines is hereby created. 5 The SSS shall be directed and controlled by a 6 Social Security Commission composed of 7 Secretary of Labor and Employment AS CHAIRMAN; 8 the SSS Administrator and [seven] SIX appointive members, three of whom shall represent 10 labor group, one of whom shall be a woman, AND 11 three, the management group, one of whom shall be 12 a woman, [and one, the general public,] to 13 appointed by the President of the Philippines. THE 14 SIX (6) MEMBERS REPRESENTING LABOR AND MANAGEMENT 15 SHALL BE CHOSEN FROM AMONG THE NOMINEES 16 WORKERS' AND EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS, 17 RESPECTIVELY. [The Chairman of the Commission 18 shall be designated by the President from among 19 its members.] The term of the appointive members 20 shall be three (3) years: Provided, That the terms 21 of first six (6) appointive members shall 22 one, two and be three years for every two 23 members, respectively. 24 All vacancies, except through the expiration 25 the term, shall be filled for the unexpired οf 26 term only. The appointive members οf the Commission shall receive One thousand 27 28 hundred pesos (P1,500.00) per diem for each 29 meeting actually attended by them: Provided, 30 That no compensation shall be paid for more

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eight meetings a month. Members of the Commission who hear cases pending before the Commission shall also receive a per diem of One thousand five hundred pesos (P1,500.00).

> "(b) The general conduct of the operations and management functions of the SSS shall vested in the Administrator who shall serve the chief executive officer immediately responsible for carrying out the program of and the policies of the Commission. The Administrator shall be a person who has had previous experience in technical and ' administrative fields related to the purposes of He shall be appointed by Act. the President of the Philippines FROM AMONG THE RECOMMENDEES OF THE COMMISSION and shall receive a salary to be fixed by the Commission with the approval of the President, payable from the funds of the SSS.

"(c) The Commission, upon the recommendation of the Administrator, shall appoint an actuary, such other personnel as may be and deemed necessarv [; fix their compensation; prescribe duties and establish such methods and their as may insure the efficient, honest procedures and economical administration of the provisions and purposes of this Act: Provided, however, That the personnel of the SSS below the rank of manager shall be appointed by the Provided, further, Administrator: That the

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personnel of the SSS shall be selected only from
civil service eligibles certified by the Civil
Service and be subject to Civil Service rules
and regulations].

THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH SHALL GOVERN THE SELECTION, HIRING, APPOINTMENT, TRANSFER, PROMOTION, OR DISMISSAL OF ALL PERSONNEL. SUCH SYSTEM SHALL AIM TO ESTABLISH PROFESSIONALISM AND EXCELLENCE AT ALL LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOUND PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT.

EVALUATION STUDIES AND WAGE SURVEYS AND SUBJECT TO THE COMMISSION'S APPROVAL, SHALL BE INSTITUTED AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF THE SYSTEM'S HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM: PROVIDED, THAT THE SYSTEM SHALL MAKE ITS OWN SYSTEM CONFORM AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH THE PRINCIPLES PROVIDED FOR UNDER R.A. 6757. HOWEVER, IT MAY GRANT ACROSS-THE-BOARD SALARY INCREASE OR MODIFY ITS COMPENSATION STRUCTURE AS TO RESULT TO HIGHER SALARIES SUBJECT TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

- 1. EVIDENCE OF PRIOR IMPROVEMENT IN EMPLOYEE PRODUCTIVITY AS INDICATED BY HIS WORK PERFORMANCE;
- 2. STATUTE RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE HAS BEEN ENACTED WITH APPLICATION TO PRIVATE EMPLOYEES OR HAS THE EFFECT OF CLASSIFYING SOME POSITIONS IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICE AS BELOW THE FLOOR WAGE.

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this Act."

1 3. A new Section designated as Section 3-A is 2 hereby inserted after Section 3(c) of R.A. 1161, as amended 3 to read as follows: "SEC. 4 3-A. EXEMPTION FROM RULES AND 5 REGULATIONS OF COMPENSATION AND POSITION 6 CLASSIFICATION OFFICE. ALLPERSONNEL 7 POSITIONS OF THE SYSTEM SHALL BE GOVERNED BY SECTION 2 HEREOF, AND AS SUCH SHALL BE EXEMPTED 8 FROM THE COVERAGE OF THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF 9 10 THE COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION 11 OFFICE. THE SYSTEM, HOWEVER, SHALL SEE TO IT THAT 12 ITS OWN SYSTEM CONFORMS AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE 13 WITH THAT PROVIDED FOR UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6757." 14 15 SEC. 4. Section 4 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, 16 hereby further amended by amending sub-paragraph (i) 17 inserting a new sub-paragraph (1) and redesignating the 18 present sub-paragraph (1) as sub-paragraph (m) to read 19 follows: 20 "(i) To acquire AND DISPOSE OF property, 21 real or personal, which may be necessary expedient for the attainment of the purposes 22 of 23 this Act. "(L) 24 TO DETERMINE THE COVERAGE OF EMPLOYERS, 25 EMPLOYEES, SELF-EMPLOYED AND VOLUNTARY MEMBERS THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM UNDER SUCH TERMS 26 AND CONDITIONS AS IT MAY PRESCRIBE. 27

([L)] (M) To perform such other acts as

may deem appropriate for the proper enforcement of

it

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1 SEC. 5. Paragraphs (a) and (d), Sec. 5 of R.A. No.

2 1161, as amended, are hereby further amended, to read as

3 follows:

4 "SEC. 5. Settlement of Disputes. - (a)

5 Any dispute arising under this Act with respect to

6 coverage, benefits, contributions, [and] penalties

thereon AND LOANS GRANTED UNDER SEC. 26(E) HEREOF

8 or any other matter related thereto, shall be

9 cognizable by the Commission, and any case filed

10 with respect thereto shall be heard by the

11 Commission, or any of its members, or by hearing

officers duly authorized by the Commission and

decided within twenty days after the submission of

14 the evidence. The filing, determination and

settlement of dispute shall be governed by the

16 rules and regulations promulgated by the

17 Commission.

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18 "(d) Execution οf decisions THE 19 COMMISSION MAY, MOTU PROPRIO OR ON MOTION OF ANY 20 INTERESTED PARTY, ISSUE A WRIT OF EXECUTION ENFORCE ANY OF ITS DECISIONS OR AWARDS, AFTER 21 22 HAS BECOME FINAL AND EXECUTORY, IN THE SAME MANNER 23 THE DECISION OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BY 24 DIRECTING [Anv decision oraward of the Commission after the same has become final 25 26 executory shall be enforced and executed in the 27 same manner as the decisions of Court of First 28 Instance and the Commission shall have the power 29 to issue to] the City or Provincial Sheriff or the

1 Sheriff whom it may appoint TO ENFORCE OR EXECUTE 2 SUCH FINAL DECISION OR AWARD [such writs of execution as may be necessary for the enforcement 4 of such decision or award] and any person who 5 shall fail or refuse to comply with such 6 decision, award or writ, after being required to 7. do so shall, upon application by the Commission, 8 be punished by the proper Court for contempt. SEC. 6. Section 7 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, 9 10 hereby further amended to read as follows: 11 "SEC. 7. Oaths, witnesses, and production 12 of records. - When authorized by the Commission, an official or employee thereof shall have the 13 14 power to administer oath and affirmation, take depositions, certify to official acts, and issue 15 16 subpoena and subpoena duces tecum to compel the 17 attendance of witnesses and the production of 18 books, papers, correspondence, and other records 19 deemed necessary as evidence in connection with 20 any question arising under this Act. Any case of 21 contumacy shall be dealt with in accordance with 22 LAW. [the provisions of section five hundred eighty of the Administrative Code.] 23 24 SEC. 7. Section 8 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, hereby further amended by amending paragraphs (c), 25 (d), 26 (j), (k) and (m), deleting paragraph (g) redesignating paragraph (r) as the new paragraph (q), to 27 28 read as follows: 29 "SEC. 8. Terms Defined. For the purposes

of this Act the following terms shall, unless the

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context indicates otherwise, have the following meanings:

(c) Employer - Any person, natural juridical, domestic or foreign, who carries on in the Philippines any trade, business, industry, undertaking, or activity of any kind and uses the services of another person who is under his orders as regards the employment, except the Government and any of its political subdivision, branches or instrumentalities, including corporations owned or controlled by the Government: Provided, self-employed person shall be both employee employer at the same time: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT ANY PERSON WHO EMPLOYS ANOTHER IN DOMESTIC OR HOUSEHOLD SERVICE IS DEEMED AN EMPLOYER PURPOSES OF THIS ACT. DOMESTIC OR HOUSEHOLD SERVICE SHALL MEAN SERVICES IN THE EMPLOYERS' HOME WHICH IS USUALLY NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND ENJOYMENT THEREOF AND INCLUDES MINISTERING ТО THE PERSONAL COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EMPLOYER'S HOUSEHOLD, INCLUDING SERVICES OF FAMILY DRIVERS: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE FOREIGN EMPLOYER OF A SEA-BASED OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKER IS AN EMPLOYER FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT."

"(d) Employee - Any person who performs services for an employer in which either or both mental and physical efforts are used and who receives compensation for such services, where there is an employer-employee relationship:

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Provided, THAT EMPLOYEES OF BONA FIDE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS SHALL NOT BE DEEMED EMPLOYEES OF THE EMPLOYER ENGAGING THE SERVICES OF SUCH CONTRACTORS; PROVIDED, FURTHER, that a employed person shall be both employee employer at the same time: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED IN DOMESTIC OR HOUSEHOLD SERVICE HEREINAFTER CALLED HOUSEHELPERS, DEEMED EMPLOYEES FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT." "(e) dependents-SHALL BE THE FOLLOWING: legitimate, legitimated or legally adopted child who is unmarried, not gainfully employed, and not over twenty-one years of age, or over twenty-one years of age, provided that he is congenitally incapacitated and incapable of self-support, physically or mentally; the legitimate spouse dependent for support upon the employee; and the legitimate parents wholly dependent upon the covered employee for regular support.] (1) THE LEGITIMATE SPOUSE DEPENDENT FOR SUPPORT UPON THE COVERED EMPLOYEE; (2) LEGITIMATE, LEGITIMATED THEOR LEGALLY ADOPTED CHILD WHO IS UNMARRIED, NOT GAINFULLY EMPLOYED, AND NOT OVER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE, OR OVER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE, PROVIDED THAT HE IS CONGENITALLY OR HAS BEEN PERMANENLY

INCAPACITATED WHILE STILL A MINOR

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1	AND INCAPABLE OF SELF-SUPPORT
2	PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY;
3	(3) THE PARENTS WHO ARE WHOLLY DEPENDENT
4	UPON THE COVERED EMPLOYEE FOR
5	REGULAR SUPPORT; AND
6	(4) SUBJECT TO THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED
7	ON LEGITIMATE CHILDREN, THE
8	ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN WHO ARE WHOLLY
9	DEPENDENT UPON THE EMPLOYEE FOR
10	REGULAR SUPPORT.
11	"(j) Employment - Any service performed by an
12	employee for his employer, except -
13	"[(1) Agricultural labor when performed
14	by a share or leasehold tenant or worker
15	who is not paid any regular daily wage or
16	base pay and who does not work for an
17	uninterrupted period of at least six
18	months in a year;
19	"(2) Domestic service in a private home;]
20	"[(3)] (1) Employment purely casual and
21	not for the purpose of occupation or
22	business of the employer;
23	"[(4)] (2) Service performed by an
24	individual in the employ of his son,
25	daughter, or spouse, [and service
26	performed by a child under the age of
27	twenty-one years in the employ of his
28	parents];
29	"[(5) Service performed on or in
30	connection with an alien vessel by an

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1 employee if he is employed when such 2 vessel is outside Philippines;] 3 "[(6)] (3) Service performed in the employ of the Philippine Government or 4 5 instrumentality or agency thereof; "[(7)] (4) Service performed in 6 the of a foreign government 7 emplov orinternational organization, or wholly-owned instrumentality; Provided, 9 10 however, That this exemption 11 notwithstanding, any foreign government, 12 international organization, or their 13 wholly-owned instrumentality employing 14 workers in the Philippines or employing 15 Filipinos outside of the Philippines 16 enter into an agreement with 17 Philippine Government for the inclusion 18 of such employees in the SSS except those 19 already covered by their respective civil 20 service retirement systems; 21 Provided, further, That the terms of such agreement shall conform with the provisions of this Act 22 23 on coverage and amount of payment 24 contributions and benefits; Provided, finally, That 25 provisions of this Act shall be supplementary to 26 any such agreement. 27 "[(8) Such other services performed by 28 temporary employees which may be excluded 29 by regulation οf the Commission. 30 Employees of bona fide independent

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contractors shall not be deemed employees

of the employer engaging the services of

said contractors.]

Beneficiaries - The dependent spouse until he OR SHE remarries, and dependent ADOPTED LEGITIMATE, LEGITIMATED OR LEGALLY children, AND IN THEIR ABSENCE, THE DEPENDENT ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN who shall be the primary beneficiaries[.]; [In] IN their absence, the parents [and, subject dependent to the restrictions imposed on dependent children, the legitimate descendants and illegitimate children] who shall be the secondary beneficiaries: [.] [IN] IN the absence of any of the foregoing, any other person designated by the covered employee as secondary beneficiary.

Average monthly salary credit result obtained by deciding the sum of the monthly credits in the sixty-month immediately preceding the semester of contingency by the number of CALENDAR months of coverage in the same period, or the result obtained dividing the sum of all the monthly salary credits paid prior to the semester of contingency by the number of calendar months of coverage in the same period, whichever is greater: except where the month of contingency falls within eighteen months from the month of cover, in which case is the result obtained by dividing the sum of all monthly salary credits paid prior to the month of

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contingency by the total number of calendar months 1 of coverage in the same period: Provided, THAT FOR 2 PURPOSES OF THIS DEFINITION, "CALENDAR MONTHS 3 INCLUDE THE MONTHS FOR OF COVERAGE" SHALL NO CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN WHICH 5 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the DATE OF injury or 6 sickness which caused disability shall be deemed 7 as the DATE OF permanent disability for 8 purpose ONLY of computing the average monthly 9 salary credit. 10 11 "[(q) Replacement ratio - The sum of twenty 12 percent and the quotient obtained by dividing three hundred by the sum of three hundred forty 13 and the average monthly salary credit.] 14 "[(r)] (Q) Credited years of service - For a 15 16 member covered prior to January 1975, nineteen hundred seventy five minus the calendar year of 17 coverage plus the number of calendar years in 18 19 which six or more contributions have been paid January 1975 up to the calendar 20 from year 21 containing the semester prior to the contingency. For a member covered in or after January 1975, the 22 23 number of calendar years in which six or more contributions have been paid from the year of 24 coverage up to the calendar year containing the 25 26 semester prior to the contingency. SEC. 8. Section 9 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, 27 28 hereby further amended to read as follows: 29 "SEC. 9. Compulsory Coverage. -(a)

Coverage in the SSS shall be compulsory upon

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employees not over sixty (60) years of age and their employers: Provided, That any benefit already earned by employees under private benefit plans existing at the time of the approval of this shall not be discontinued, reduced Act Provided, further, otherwise impaired: private plans which are existing and in force the time of compulsory coverage shall be integrated with the plan of the SSS in such a way where the employer's contribution to his private plan is more than that required of him in this Act he shall be pay to the SSS only the contribution required of him and he shall continue his contribution to such private plan his contribution to the SSS so that the employer's total contribution to his private benefit plan and to the Social Security System shall be the same as his contribution to his private plan before the compulsory coverage: Provided, further, That any changes, adjustments, modifications, eliminations improvements in the benefits to be available under the remaining private plan, which may be necessary to adopt by reason of the reduced contribution thereto as a result integration, shall be subject to agreements between the employers and employees concerned: Provided, further, That the private benefit plan which the employer shall continue for employees shall remain under the employer's management and control unless there is an existing agreement to the contrary: Provided, finally,

- 15 -1 That nothing in this Act shall be construed as a 2 limitation on the right of employers and employees 3 to agree on and adopt benefits which are over 4 above those provided under this Act. 5 _ "(B) ALL PERSONS EMPLOYED IN DOMESTIC 6 HOUSEHOLD SERVICE HEREINAFTER CALLED HOUSEHELPERS. 7 "[(b)] (C) COVERAGE IN THE SSS SHALL 8 COMPULSORY UPON ALL FILIPINOS RECRUITED INTHE 9 PHILIPPINES BY FOREIGN-BASED EMPLOYERS FOR SEA-BASED EMPLOYMENT ABROAD, HEREINAFTER REFERRED 10 11 AS SEA-BASED OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS. Filipinos 12 recruited in the Philippines by foreign-based 13 employers for employment abroad OTHER THAN AS SEA-BASED OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS may be covered by 14 15 the SSS on a voluntary basis. 16 "UNLESS INCONSISTENT WITH ANY PROVISION OF 17 THIS ACT OR OTHERWISE SPECIFIED HEREIN, AT.T. PROVISIONS OF THE SSS LAW APPLICABLE TO COVERED 18 19 EMPLOYEES SHALL ALSO BE APPLICABLE TO COVERED SEA-20 BASED CONTRACT WORKERS." 21 SEC. 9. There is hereby inserted after Section 9-A of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, a new section denominated as Sec. 22 23 9-B to read as follows: 24 "SEC. 9-B. VOLUNTARY COVERAGE OF CERTAIN DEPENDENTS. - PERSONS COMPULSORILY COVERED BY THIS

25 26 ACT MAY OPT TO PLACE UNDER THEIR DEPENDENT 27 CHILDREN, AS DEFINED UNDER SEC. 8 (e) HEREOF, 28 UNDER THE COVERAGE OF THE SSS SUBJECT TO SUCH 29 TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THEMAY 30 PRESCRIBE."

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1 SEC. 10. Section 12 of R.A. 1161, as amended, is hereby further amended by amending paragraph (b) to read as 2 3 follows: The monthly pension shall in no case 4 5 less than [two hundred] TWO THOUSAND pesos 6 (P2,000.00) nor paid in an aggregate amount 7 less than sixty times the monthly pension except 8 to a secondary beneficiary: [Provided, That 9 monthly pension of surviving pensioners of 10 December 31, 1986 shall be increased by twenty percent:] PROVIDED, THAT THE COMMISSION 11 SHALL EQUITABLY ADJUST THE MONTHLY PENSIONS OF 12 OTHER ENTITLED MEMBERS OR BENEFICIARIES WHOSE MONTHLY 13 PENSIONS ARE HIGHER THAN THE MINIMUM MONTHLY 14 15 PENSION HEREBY ESTABLISHED TO PRESERVE THE 16 INTEGRITY OF THE PENSION PROGRAM. SEC. 11. Section 12-A of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, 17 hereby further amended to read as follows: 18 19 "SEC. 12-A. Dependents' Pension - WHERE 20 MONTHLY PENSION IS PAYABLE ON ACCOUNT OF DEATH. 21 TOTAL AND PERMANENT DISABILITY OR RETIREMENT, 22 [The] dependents' pension [shall be] equivalent to 23 ten percent of the monthly pension SHALL ALSO 24 BE PAID for each dependent child CONCEIVED ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE CONTINGENCY 25 but 26 exceeding five, beginning with the youngest and 27 without substitution [.]: PROVIDED, THAT WHERE 28 THERE ARE BOTH LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE

CHILDREN, THE FORMER SHALL BE PREFERRED."

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SEC. 12. Section 12-B of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, is hereby further amended by amending paragraphs (a) and (d), deleting paragraph (c) and adding a new paragraph (d) to read as follows: "SEC. 12-B. Retirement Benefits - (a)

A covered employee who has paid at least one hundred twenty monthly contributions prior to semester of retirement; and who (1) has reached the age of sixty years and is ALREADY SEPARATED FROM EMPLOYMENT OR HAS CEASED TO BE SELF-EMPLOYED [not receiving monthly compensation of at three hundred Pesos] or (2) has reached the age of sixty-five years, shall be entitled for as long as he lives to the monthly pension: PROVIDED, HE SHALL HAVE THE OPTION TO CONVERT THE BASIC MONTHLY PENSIONS FOR THE FIRST FIVE (5) YEARS INTO A LUMP SUM WHICH SHALL BE EQUIVALENT TO THE VALUE OF THE BASIC MONTHLY PENSIONS FOR FIVE (5) YEARS. [: Provided, That his dependents born before retirement of a marriage subsisting when he fifty-seven years old shall be entitled to the dependents' pension.]

"[(c) The monthly pension shall be reduced upon the re-employment of a retired employee who is less than sixty-five years old by an amount equivalent to one-half his earnings over three hundred pesos. He shall be again subject to section eighteen and his employer to section nineteen of this Act.]

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1 "[(d)]" (C) Upon the death of the retired employee pensioner, his primary beneficiaries 2 of the date of his retirement shall be entitled to 3 4 RECEIVE [eighty percent of] the monthly pension [and his dependents to the dependents' pension]: Provided, That if he has no primary beneficiaries 6 and he dies within sixty months from the start of 7 his monthly pension, his secondary beneficiaries R 9 shall be entitled to a lump sum benefit equivalent 10 [the bigger of (1) twenty times the monthly pension or (2) the difference of sixty times the 11 monthly pension and] the total monthly pensions 12 CORRESPONDING TO THE BALANCE OF THE FIVE-YEAR 13 GUARANTEED PERIOD, [paid by the SSS] excluding the 14 15 dependents' pension. 16 "(D) THE MONTHLY PENSION OF A MEMBER WHO 17 RETIRES AFTER REACHING AGE SIXTY SHALL BETHE HIGHER OF EITHER: (1) THE MONTHLY PENSION COMPUTED 18 AT THE EARLIEST TIME HE COULD HAVE RETIRED HAD 19 HE 20 SEPARATED FROM EMPLOYMENT OR CEASED TO BEEN SELF-EMPLOYED PLUS ALL ADJUSTMENTS THERETO, OR (2) 21 THE MONTHLY PENSION COMPUTED AT THE TIME 22 WHEN HE23 ACTUALLY RETIRES." 24 13. Section 13 of R.A. No. 1161, as SEC. amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows: 25 26 "SEC. Death Benefits - Upon the DEATH 13. 27 A covered employee['s death] WHO HAD PAID AΤ LEAST THIRTY-SIX MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS PRIOR 28 TO 29 SEMESTER OF DEATH, his primary beneficiaries THE shall be entitled to the monthly pension: [and his 30

1 dependents to the dependents' pension.] Provided, 2 That IF HE HAS NO PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES, 3 SECONDARY BENEFICIARIES SHALL BE ENTITLED TO 4 LUMP SUM BENEFIT EQUIVALENT TO THIRTY-SIX TIMES 5 THE MONTHLY PENSION [he has paid at least thirty-6 six monthly contributions prior to the semester of 7 death: Provided, further, That if the foregoing 8 condition is not satisfied]. IF HE HAS NOT PAID 9 THE REQUIRED THIRTY-SIX MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS, his 10 primary OR SECONDARY beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum benefit equivalent 11 to 12 [thirty-five times the monthly pension: Provided, further, That if he has no primary beneficiaries, 13 his secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a 14 15 lump sum benefit equivalent to twenty times the 16 monthly pension: Provided, however, That 17 minimum death benefit shall not be less than total contributions paid by him and his employer 18 19 on his behalf nor less than one] THE MONTHLY 20 PENSION TIMES THE NUMBER OF MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS 21 PAID TO THESSS OR EIGHT thousand pesos, 22 WHICHEVER IS HIGHER: PROVIDED, THAT, 23 OPTION OF THE BENEFICIARIES AND DEPENDENTS, IT MAY 24 BE PAID IN LUMP SUM AS PROVIDED IN SEC. 12-B 25 HEREOF. [Provided, finally, That the 26 beneficiaries of the covered employee who dies 27 without having paid at least three monthly contributions shall be entitled to the minimum 28 29 benefit].

1 SEC. 14. Section 13-A of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, is 2 hereby further amended by amending paragraphs (a), (b), and

3 (c) and adding new paragraphs (h), (i) and (j) to read

4 as follows:

5 "SEC. 13-A. Permanent disability benefits [a] Upon the [covered employee's] permanent 6 total total disability OF A COVERED EMPLOYEE 8 such disability occurs after he had] WHO HAS paid 9 at least thirty-six monthly contributions prior to 10 the semester of disability, he shall be entitled 11 to the monthly pension: PROVIDED, THAT COVERED EMPLOYEE SHALL HAVE THE OPTION TO CONVERT 12 13 THE BASIC MONTHLY PENSION FOR THE FIRST FIVE 14 YEARS INTO LUMP SUM AS PROVIDED IN SEC. 12-B 15 HEREOF. [and his dependents to the 16 dependents pension]: Provided, That if 17 disability occurs before he has paid thirty-six 18 monthly contributions prior to the semester of 19 disability], HE HAS NOT PAID THE REQUIRED THIRTY-20 SIX MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS he shall be entitled to lump sum benefit equivalent to [thirty-five 21 22 times the monthly pension: Provided, further, That 23 the minimum disability benefit shall not be 24 than the total contributions paid by him and his 25 employer on his behalf nor less than one] THE 26 MONTHLY PENSION TIMES THE NUMBER OF MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS PAID TO THE SSS, OR EIGHT 27 pesos[:], WHICHEVER IS HIGHER. Provided, further, 28 That a covered employee who becomes permanently 29 30 totally disabled without having paid at least

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three monthly contributions shall be entitled to the minimum benefit: Provided, finally, That a] A member who (1) HAS received a lump sum benefit and (2) is reemployed not earlier than one year from the date of his disability shall again be subject to compulsory coverage and considered a new member.

"(b) [The monthly pension shall be reduced upon his re-employment by an amount equivalent to one-half of his earnings over three hundred pesos.] The monthly pension and dependents' pension shall be suspended upon his recovery from the permanent total disability, or his failure to present himself for examination at least once a year upon notice by the SSS.

"(c) Upon the death of the permanent total disability pensioner, his primary beneficiaries as the date of disability shall be entitled to RECEIVE [eighty percent of] the monthly pension [and his dependents to the dependents' pension]: Provided, That if he has no primary beneficiaries and he dies within sixty months from the start his monthly pension, his secondary beneficiaries shall be entitled to a lump sum benefit equivalent [the bigger of (1) twenty times the monthly pension or (2) the difference of sixty times, the monthly pension and] the total monthly pensions CORRESPONDING TO THE BALANCE OF THE FIVE-YEAR GUARANTEED PERIOD [paid by the SSS] excluding the dependents' pension:

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"(H) IN CASE OF PARTIAL PERMANENT DISABILITY, 1 2 THE MONTHLY PENSION BENEFIT SHALL BE GIVEN IN LUMP SUM IF IT IS PAYABLE FOR LESS THAN TWELVE MONTHS." 3 "(I) THE PURPOSE FOR OF ADJUDICATING RETIREMENT, DEATH AND TOTAL PERMANENT DISABILITY 5 PENSION BENEFITS, CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE DEEMED 6 7 PAID FOR THE MONTHS DURING WHICH THE COVERED EMPLOYEE RECEIVED PARTIAL DISABILITY 8 PENSION: PROVIDED, THAT SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE BASED 9 ON HIS LAST CONTRIBUTION PRIOR TO HIS DISABILITY." 10 11 "(J) SHOULD A COVERED EMPLOYEE WHO 12 PARTIAL DISABILITY PENSION RETIRE OR DIE, 13 DISABILITY PENSION SHALL CEASE UPON HIS RETIREMENT 14 OR DEATH." SEC. 15. Paragraph (a) of Section 14 of R.A. No. 1161, 15 16 as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows: 17 14. Sickness benefit - (a) A covered 18 employee who has paid at least three monthly 19 contributions in the twelve-month period 20 immediately preceding the semester of sickness OR 21 INJURY and is confined THEREFOR for more than 22 three days in a hospital or elsewhere with 23 Commission's approval shall, for each day 24 compensable confinement or fraction thereof, be paid by his employer, or the SSS, if such person 25 26 is unemployed, [an] A DAILY SICKNESS BENEFIT 27 [allowance] equivalent to ninety percent (90%) 28 his average daily salary credit, subject to the 29 following conditions:

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"[(1) In no case shall the total amount of such daily allowance be less than seven pesos and fifty centavos nor exceed seventy five pesos nor paid longer than one hundred twenty (120) days in one calendar year; nor shall any unused portion of the one hundred twenty (120) days of sickness benefit granted under this section be carried forward and added to the total number of compensable days allowable in the subsequent year;]

"[(2)] (1) THE DAILY SICKNESS BENEFIT [No employee] shall NOT be paid [any sickness benefit] for more than two hundred forty days on account of the same confinement; and

"[(3)] (2) The employee shall notify his employer of the fact of his sickness or injury within five (5) calendar days after the start of his confinement unless such confinement is in a hospital or the employee became sick or was injured while working or within the premises of the employer in which case notification to the employer is not necessary: Provided, That if member is unemployed he shall directly notify the SSS of his confinement within five (5) calendar after the start thereof unless such confinement is in a hospital in which case notification is also not necessary: Provided, further, That in cases where notification is necessary, the confinement shall be deemed to have started not earlier than the fifth day immediately preceding the date of notification.

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1 SEC. 16. Section 14-A of R.A. 1161, as amended, 2 hereby further amended by amending the opening paragraph and 3 sub-paragraphs (c), (d), and (f) thereof, to read as 4 follows: 5 "SEC. 14-A. Maternity Leave Benefit - A 6 covered female employee who has paid at least 7 three monthly [maternity] contributions in the 8 twelve-month period immediately preceding the 9 semester of her childbirth, abortion, miscarriage [and who is currently employed] shall 10 11 be paid a daily maternity benefit equivalent to 12 one hundred percent (100%) of her present basic 13 salary, allowances and other 14 benefits or the cash equivalents of such benefits 15 for EIGHTY-FOUR (84) [sixty (60)] CALENDAR days, 16 subject to the following conditions: XXX 17 "(d) That payment of daily maternity benefits 18 shall be a bar to the recovery of sickness benefits provided by this Act for the 19 20 [compensable] period FOR WHICH DAILY MATERNITY 21 BENEFITS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED [of sixty (60) days 22 for the same childbirth, abortion, 23 miscarriage;] xxx"(e) 24 That the maternity benefits provided 25 under this Section shall be paid [only] for [the first four] ALL deliveries [after March 13, 1973]; 26

"(f) That if an employee should give birth or

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suffer abortion or miscarriage without

1 required contributions having been remitted her by her employer to the SSS, or without the 2 latter having been previously notified by the 3 employer of time of the pregnancy, the employer 4 shall pay to the SSS damages equivalent the 5 benefits which said employee would otherwise have been entitled to [, and the SSS shall in turn pay 7 such amount to the employee concerned]." Я SEC. 17. There shall be incorporated after Section · 9 14-A of R.A. 1161, as amended, new Sections 14-B and 14-C, 10 11 which shall read as follows: "SEC. 14-B. LOAN BENEFITS. -COVERED ~ 12 EMPLOYEE WHO HAS PAID AT LEAST TWELVE (12) MONTHLY 13 CONTRIBUTIONS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO APPLY AND 14 GRANTED SALARY LOANS, EDUCATIONAL LOANS, EMERGENCY 15 16 LOANS OR SUCH OTHER SIMILAR LOANS AS MAY INCLUDED AS PART OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM OF 17 THE SSS: PROVIDED, THAT ANY FAILURE OR REFUSAL TO 18 19 REMIT BY THE EMPLOYER OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS . 20 PRESCRIBED BY THIS ACT OR TO PAY ANY LOAN OR AMORTIZATION GRANTED TO THE EMPLOYER OR TO SOME OF 21 HIS EMPLOYEES SHALL NOT PREJUDICE THE RIGHT OF HIS 22 23 OTHER COVERED EMPLOYEES TO THE BENEFITS UNDER THIS SECTION." 24 "SEC. 14-C. CHRISTMAS PENSION. ANY LAW 25 TO 26 THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING AND REGARDLESS OF THE GRANT OF SIMILAR BENEFITS UNDER EXISTING LAWS, 27 Α 28 PENSIONER, HIS PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES AND 29 DEPENDENTS UNDER SECTIONS 12-B, 13 AND 13-A SHALL

BE ENTITLED TO CHRISTMAS PENSION WHICH SHALL

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1 EQUIVALENT TO ONE TWELFTH (1/12) OF THE TOTAL

2 ANNUAL PENSION: PROVIDED, THAT THE GRANT OF

3 CHRISTMAS PENSION WILL NOT ENTAIL ANY INCREASE IN

4 THE RATE OF CONTRIBUTION OF ANY SSS MEMBER.

5 SEC. 18. Section 15 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, is

6 hereby further amended to read as follows:

7 "SEC. 15. Non-transferability of Benefits.

The SSS shall pay the benefits provided for 8 9 this Act to such persons as may be entitled 10 thereto in accordance with the provisions of this 11 Provided, that the beneficiary who is a national of a foreign country which does not 12 13 extend benefits to a Filipino beneficiary residing 14 in the Philippines, or which is not recognized by the Philippines, shall not be entitled to receive 15 16 any benefit under this Act: Provided, further, 17 That notwithstanding the foregoing, where the best interest of the SSS will be served, the Commission 18 may direct payments without regard to nationality 19 20 country of residence: Provided, further, if the recipient is a minor or a person incapable 21 administering his own affairs, the Commission 22 23 shall appoint a representative under such terms 24 and conditions as it may deem proper: Provided, 25 further, that such appointment shall 26 necessary in case the recipient is under the 27 custody of or living with the parents or spouse of 28 employee in which case the benefits shall be paid to such parents or spouse, as representative 29 30 payee of the recipient. Such benefits are not

1 transferable and no power of attorney or other 2 document executed by those entitled thereto, favor of any agent, attorney or any other person 3 for the collection thereof on their behalf shall 4 5 be recognized, except when they are physically 6 unable to collect personally such benefits: 7 Provided, further, That in case of death benefits, if no beneficiary qualifies under this Act, said 8 9 benefits shall be paid to the legal heirs accordance with the law of succession: 10 FURTHERMORE, THAT THE RIGHT TO INSTITUTE 11 12 NECESSARY ACTION OR CLAIM FOR BENEFITS MAY 13 COMMENCED WITHIN TWENTY (20) YEARS FROM THE THE BENEFIT ACCRUES." [Provided, Finally, That 14 15 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the 16 payment of benefits under this Act shall ban 17 recovery of similar benefits under Title 18 II of Book IV of the Labor Code of Philippines, as amended, during the period of such 19 20 payment for the same contingency, and conversely.] 21 19. Section 16 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended SEC. is 22 hereby further amended to read as follows: 23 "SEC. 16. Exemption from tax, legal process and lien - All laws to the contrary 24 notwithstanding, the SSS and all its assets 25 26 properties, all contributions collected and all 27 accruals thereto and income orinvestment 28 earnings therefrom as well as all supplies, 29 equipment, papers or documents which may 30 required in connection with the operation

1 execution of this Act shall be exempt from 2 tax, assessment, fee, charge, or customs or import 3 duty; and all benefit payments made by the shall likewise be exempt from all kinds of taxes, or charges, and shall not be liable attachments, garnishments, levy or seizure by or 6 under any legal or equitable process whatsoever, 7 either before or after receipt by the person or 8 persons entitled thereto, except to pay any debt 9 of the covered employee to the SSS. No LAW, RULES, 10 OPINIONS OR ANY 11 REGULATIONS, tax measure 12 HERETOFORE OR hereafter enacted OR PROMULGATED shall apply to the SSS, unless it expressly 13 14 revokes the declared policy of the State in 15 Section 2 hereof granting tax-exemption to the 16 SSS. Any tax assessment against, and still unpaid 17 by the SSS shall be null and void. SEC. 20. Section 18 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, 18 19 hereby further amended by amending paragraph (a) to read as 20 follows:

Employee's contribution - (1) 21 "SEC. 18. 22 Beginning as of the last day of the calendar month when an employee's compulsory coverage 23 24 effect and every month thereafter during his 25 employment, the employer shall deduct and withhold 26 from such employee's monthly salary, wage, 27 compensation or earnings, the employee's 28 contribution in an amount corresponding to his 29 salary, wage, compensation, or earnings during the 30 month in accordance with the following schedule

follows:

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1	[effective	January 1, 1987]:			
2	Salary Bracket Number	Range of compensation	Monthly Salary Credit		ly Contr er/Emplo	ibution yee/Total
3	[I P	1 - 149.99	P 125	P 6.40	4.10	10.50
4	II	150 - 199.99	175	9.00	5.70	14.70
5	III	200 - 249.99	225	11.40	7.50	18.90
6	IV	250 - 349.99	300	15.20	10.00	25.20
7	V	350 - 499.99	425	21.60	14.10	35.70
8	VI	500 - 699.00	600	30.40	20.00	50.40
9	VII	700 - 899.99	800	40.50	26.70	67.20]
10	[VIII] I P[900]	1 -1099.99	P1000	50.70	33.30	84.00
11	[IX	1100 -1399.99	1250	63.30	41.70	105.00]
12	[X] II [1400] 1100 -1749.99	1500	76.00	50.00	126.00
13	[XI] III	1750 -2249.99	2000	101.30	66.70	168.00
14	[XII] IV	2250 -2749.99	2500	126.00	83.30	210.00
15	[XIII] V	2750 -3249.99	3000	152.00	100.00	252.00
16	[XIV] VI	3250 -3749.99	3500	177.30	116.70	294.00
17	[XV] VII	3750 -4249.99	4000	202.70	133.30	336.00
18	[XVI] VIII	4250 -4749.99	4500	228.00	150.00	378.00
19	[XVII] IX	4750 -5249.99	5000	253.30	166.70	420.00
20	[XVIII] X	5250 -5749.99	5500	278.70	183.30	462.00
21	[XIX] XI	5750 -OVER	6000	304.00	200.00	504.00
22	The tabula	ted schedule for	the mont	hly cont	ributio	n of
23	the self-employ	yed INCLUDING	FARMERS	AND FIS	HERMEN,	and
24	voluntary member	ers [effective	January	1, 1987]	shall	be as
					,	

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1	Salary Bracket Number	Range of compensation	Monthly Salary Credit	Monthly Contribution	
2	[I	1 - 149.99	P 125	P 10.00	
3	II	150 - 199.99	175	14.00	
4	III	200 - 249.99	225	18.00	
5	IV	250 - 349.99	300	24.00	
6	v	350 - 499.99	425	34.00	
7	VI	500 - 699.00	600.	48.00	
8	VII	700 - 899.99	800	64.00]	
9	[VIII] I P	900 -1099.99	P1000	P 80.00	
10	[IX	1100 -1399.99	1250	100.00]	
11	[X] II [1400]] 1100 -1749.99	1500	120.00	
12	[XI] III	1750 -2249.99	2000	160.00	
13	[XII] IV	2250 -2749.99	2500	200.00	
14	[XIII] V	2750 -3249.99	3000	240.00	
15	[XIV] VI	3250 -3749.99	3500	280.00	
16	[XV] VII	3750 -4249.99	4000	320.00	
17	[XVI] VIII	4250 -4749.99	4500	360.00	
18	[XVII] IX	4750 -5249.99	5000	400.00	
19	[XVIII] X	5250 -5749.99	5500	440.00	
20	[XIX] XI	5750 -OVER	6000	480.00	
21	"The MINII	MUM AND maximum	[covered]	MONTHLY SALARY	
22	CREDITS [earning	ngs or compensatio	on of all SS	S members shall	
23	be limited to the	nree thousand peso	s per month	as] provided in	
24	the foregoing	schedules [unless	otherwise p	rovided] MAY BE	
25	FIXED FROM TIME	TO TIME by the	Social Secu	rity Commission	
26	through rules	and regulations	taking int	o consideration	
27	actuarial calcul	lations and rate o	of benefits.	•	

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SEC. 21. Section 19-A of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, is hereby further amended, and new sections denominated as Sections 19-B and 19-C are hereby inserted to read as follows:

"SEC. 19-A. Contributions of the Selfemployed - The contributions to the SSS of self-employed shall be determined in accordance with Section 18 of this Act: Provided, That the average monthly net earnings BEFORE INCOME TAX declared by the self-employed IN HIS INCOME TAX RETURNS FOR THE YEAR PRECEDING [at the time his registration with the SSS shall be considered as his monthly compensation and he shall pay the employer and employee contributions.

"[Net earnings as understood under this section shall be the net income from his business or profession as reflected in the income tax return for the immediately preceding year, excluding rental income, dividend, interest investments and the like or all types of incomes which are not derived from his business registered with the SSS or from the practice of his profession.]

The average monthly net earnings declared by the self-employed member at the time of his registration shall remain the basis of his monthly salary credit, unless he makes, at the start of the year, another declaration of his average monthly net earnings based on his income tax returns for the immediately preceding year, in which case such latest declaration becomes the new

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1	basis of his monthly salary credit: PROVIDED,
2	THAT THE SELF-EMPLOYED MEMBER SHALL FURNISH THE
3	SSS A COPY OF SUCH INCOME TAX RETURNS WITHIN THE
4	FIRST SIX (6) MONTHS OF THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR."
5	"SEC. 19-B. CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOUSEHELPERS
6	AND THEIR EMPLOYERS. CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SSS OF
7	THE HOUSEHELPERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS UNDER
8	COMPULSORY COVERAGE SHALL BE DETERMINED IN
9	ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE INDICATED IN SECTION
10	18 OF THIS ACT."
11	"SEC. 19-C. CONTRIBUTIONS OF SEA-BASED
12	OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS -
13	THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SSS OF SEA-BASED OVERSEAS
14	CONTRACT WORKERS AND THEIR EMPLOYERS UNDER
15	COMPULSORY COVERAGE SHALL BE DETERMINED IN
16	ACCORDANCE WITH THE SCHEDULE INDICATED IN SECTION
17	18 OF THIS ACT."
18	SEC. 22. Section 22 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, is
19	hereby further amended by amending paragraphs (a) and (b)
20	and deleting paragraph (e) to read as follows:
21	"SEC. 22. Remittance of Contribution
22	(a) The contribution imposed in the preceding
23	section shall be remitted to the SSS within the
24	first seven days of each calendar month following
25	the month for which they are applicable or within
26	such time as the Commission may prescribe. Eyery
27	employer required to deduct and to remit such
28	contributions shall be liable for their payment
29	and if any contribution is not paid to the SSS as
30	herein prescribed, he shall pay besides the

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contribution a penalty thereon of three percent per month from the date the contribution falls due until paid: PROVIDED, THAT INTHE CASE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DOMESTIC OR HOUSEHOLD SERVICE, IN PLACES WHERE THERE IS NO SSS PROVINCIAL OR REGIONAL OFFICE WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE, SAID CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE PAID TO THE DULY AUTHORIZED TREASURER OF THE BARANGAY WHERE THE HOUSEHELPER ACTUALLY WORKS, SUBJECT TO SUCH REGULATIONS AND LIMITATIONS AS THE COMMISSION MAY PRESCRIBE. \mathbf{If} deemed expedient and advisable by the Commission, the collection and remittance of contributions shall be made quarterly or semi-annually in the contributions payable advance, by employees to be advanced by their respective employers: Provided, That upon separation of employee, any contribution so paid in advance but not due shall be credited or refunded employer."

"(b) The contributions payable under this Act in cases where an employer refuses or neglects pay the same shall be collected by the SSS in same manner as taxes are made collectible BY THE SUMMARY ISSUANCE OF A WARRANT OF DISTRAINT AND LEVY ON THE PERSONAL AND REAL PROPERTIES DELINQUENT EMPLOYERS TO SATISFY THE UNPAID CONTRIBUTIONS AND PENALTIES THEREON under National Internal Revenue Code, the as amended. Failure or refusal of the employer to pay or remit the contributions herein prescribed shall not

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prejudice the right of the covered employee to the benefits of the coverage.

"The right to institute the necessary action
against the employer may be commenced within
twenty (20) years from the time the delinquency
is known or the assessment is made by the SSS [or
from the time the benefit accrues, as the case may
be].

9 "[(e) For purposes of this section, 10 employer who is delinquent or has not remitted all the monthly contributions due and payable 11 12 within six (6) months from the issuance of 13 Executive Order remit said contributions to 14 SSS and submit the corresponding collection lists 15 hereof without incurring the prescribed three per 16 cent penalty. In case the employer fails to remit to the SSS the said contributions within the six-17 month grace period, the penalty of three per cent 18 19 shall be imposed from the time the contributions 20 first became due as provided in paragraph (a) 21 this section.]

SEC. 23. There shall be incorporated after Section 23 22-A of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, new sections denominated 24 as Sec. 22-B and Sec. 22-C to read as follows:

"SEC. 22-B. REMITTANCE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF

SEA-BASED OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS AND THEIR

EMPLOYERS. - IT SHALL BE THE DUTY OF EVERY

COVERED SEA-BASED OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKER TO

REMIT HIS CONTRIBUTION ON SUCH DATES AND SCHEDULES

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1 UNDER SUCH PROCEDURES AS THE COMMISSION MAY 2 SPECIFY THROUGH RULES AND REGULATIONS." 3 "THE EMPLOYER OF A COVERED SEA-BASED OVERSEAS 4 WORKER SHALL PAY TO THE SSS IN LUMP SUM THE 5 CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED OF HIM FOR THE WHOLE DURATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE LATTER. 6 SUCH 7 PAYMENT SHALL BE A PRECONDITION TO THE DEPLOYMENT OF EVERY SEA-BASED OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKER SSS COMPULSORY COVERAGE." 9 10 "SEC. 22-C. LIABILITY OF THE 11 OWNER. - IN THE EVENT THE INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR 12 FAILS TO PAY OR REMIT THE SSS PREMIUMS OF HIS 13° EMPLOYEES, THE CLIENT OR OWNER OF THE PROJECT · BE JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE WITH SHALL 14 INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR 15 FOR SUCH UNPAID OR 16 UNREMITTED PREMIUMS CORRESPONDING TO THE PERIOD WORK IS PERFORMED FOR SUCH CLIENT OR 17 18 OWNER, IN THE SAME MANNER AND EXTENT THAT AN EMPLOYER IS LIABLE TO EMPLOYEES DIRECTLY EMPLOYED 19 20 BY HIM." 21 SEC. 24. Paragraphs (a), (b) and (f), Section 24 22 R.A. No. 1161, as amended, are hereby further amended 23 read as follows: 24 "SEC. 24. Employment Records and Reports -25 (a) Each employer shall immediately report to the the names, ages, civil statuses, occupations, 26 salaries and dependents of all his employees who 27 28 are subject to compulsory coverage: Provided, That 29 if an employee subject to compulsory coverage

should die or become sick or disabled or reach the

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age of sixty without the SSS having previously received any report or written communication about him from his employer [or a contribution paid in his name by his employer], the said employer shall pay to the SSS damages equivalent to the benefits to which said employee would have been entitled had his name been reported on time by the employer to the SSS, except that in case of pension benefits, the employer shall be liable to pay the SSS damages equivalent TO THE ACCUMULATED PENSION DUE AS OF THE DATE OF FILING OF THE CLAIM OR to THE five years' [monthly] pension, WHICHEVER HIGHER, including dependents' pension: Provided, further, That if the contingency occurs within thirty days from the date of employment, the employer shall be relieved of his liability damages: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT IN THE CASE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DOMESTIC OR HOUSEHOLD SERVICE, INPLACES WHERE THERE IS NO PROVINCIAL OR OFFICE WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE, SUCH REPORT MAY BE FILED WITH THE BARANGAY TREASURER ΤN THE PLACE WHERE THE HOUSEHELPER ACTUALLY WORKS, SUBJECT TO SUCH REGULATIONS AND LIMITATIONS AS THE COMMISSION MAY PRESCRIBE."

"(b) Should the employer misrepresent the true date of employment of [his] THE employee[s] or remit to the SSS contributions which are less than those required in this Act OR FAIL TO REMIT ANY CONTRIBUTION DUE PRIOR TO THE DATE OF CONTINGENCY, resulting in a reduction of benefits, [the] SUCH employer shall pay to the SSS damages [to the extent of such reduction";] EQUIVALENT TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AMOUNT OF BENEFIT TO

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1 WHICH THE EMPLOYEE OR HIS BENEFICIARY IS ENTITLED 2 HAD THE PROPER CONTRIBUTIONS BEEN REMITTED TO THE 3 SSS AND THE AMOUNT PAYABLE ON THE BASIS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS ACTUALLY REMITTED: PROVIDED. SUCH A CASE, THE EMPLOYEE 5 IF. IN OR HIS BENEFICIARY IS ENTITLED TO PENSION BENEFITS, 6 THE 7 DAMAGES SHALL BE EQUIVALENT TO THE ACCUMULATED PENSION DUE AS OF THE THE DATE OF FILING OF

HIGHER INCLUDING DEPENDENTS' PENSION. 11 "In addition to the liability mentioned in the preceding paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof, the 12 13 employer shall also be liable for the payment of 14 the corresponding unremitted contributions

CLAIM OR TO THE FIVE YEARS' PENSION, WHICHEVER

penalties thereon."

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16 "(f) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, 17 microfilm, OR OPTICAL DISK AND OTHER SIMILAR 18 ARCHIVAL MEDIA copies of original SSS records 19 reports; OR COPIES OF SUCH RECORDS AND 20 duly certified by the official custodian thereof, 21 shall have the same evidentiary value as the 22 originals and be admissible as evidence in all 23 legal proceedings."

24 SEC. **25.** Section 26 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, 25 hereby further amended by amending the opening paragraph and 26 paragraphs (a), (b), (d), (e), (f), (i), (j), (k), 27 paragraph (c), adding a new paragraph designated as the new paragraph (h) and redesignating paragraphs (g) and 28 paragraphs (a) and (b), respectively, of a new section 29 30 designated as Section 26-A, to read as follows:

31 "SEC. 26. Investment of Reserve Funds. -32 All revenues of the SSS that are not needed

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meet the current administrative and operational expenses incidental to the carrying out of this Act shall be accumulated to a fund to be known as the "Reserve Fund". Such portions of the Reserve Fund as are not needed to meet the current benefit obligations thereof shall be invested to earn AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE an average annual income of at least [nine] TWELVE percent and shall be known as the 'Investment Reserve Fund' which shall be invested in any or all of the following:

"(a) In [interest-bearing] bonds, [or] securities OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF INDEBTEDNESS of the Government of the Philippines, or IN bonds, [or] securities, PROMISSORY NOTES OR OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS [for the payment of the interest and principal] to which the FULL faith and credit AND UNCONDITIONAL GUARANTEE of the Republic of the Philippines is pledged.

"(b) In interest-bearing deposits AND LOANS
TO or securities in, OR PROMISSORY NOTES OR
OTHER EVIDENCE OF INDEBTEDNESS OF, any domestic
bank doing business in the Philippines:
Provided, That IN THE CASE OF such deposits,
THESE shall not exceed at any time the
unimpaired capital and surplus or total private
deposits of the depository bank, whichever
is smaller: Provided, further, That said bank
shall first have been designated as a depository
for this purpose by the Monetary Board of the

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1 [Central Bank of the Philippines:] BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS. [Provided, finally, That 2 3 such investment in deposits or securities 4 shall be equitably distributed to designated banks.] 5 6 "[(c) In loans or interest-bearing advances to the National Government for 7 8 construction of permanent toll bridges, toll 9 roads or government office buildings in accordance with actuarial considerations and the 10 11 conditions prescribed by the law in such cases: 12 Provided, That the tolls shall be collected by 13 the SSS for a reasonable fee.] 14 "[(d)] (C) In direct housing loans to covered 15 employee and group housing projects giving 16 priority to the low-income groups, up to a 17 maximum of ninety percent of the appraised value 18 of the properties to be mortgaged by the 19 borrowers, [and] in loans for the 20 construction and the maintenance of 21 hospitals and institutions for the sick, aged 22 and infirmed members and their families, 23 referred to in Section 4 (j) of this Act: Provided, [That such investment shall not 24 exceed thirty 25 percent of the Investment 26 Reserve Fund.] THAT COVERED EMPLOYEES WITH DIRECT HOUSING LOANS OF NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED 27 28 THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) SHALL NOT BE 29 REQUIRED TO GIVE EQUITY: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT 30 THOSE WITH LOANS OF MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND 31 PESOS (P100,000.00) MAY BE REQUIRED TO GIVE AN 32 EQUITY OF NOT MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT (5%) 33 OF SUCH LOANS: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT THE SSS

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MAY INCREASE THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DIRECT HOUSING 1 LOANS WHICH MAY BE GRANTED WITHOUT NEED OF EQUITY 2 TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THEPARTICIPATION 3 PURCHASING CAPACITY OF THE PESO, THE COST OF LIVING, THE NEED TO PROVIDE DECENT HOUSING AND 5 OTHER SIMILAR FACTORS, THE INVESTIBLE FUND FOR 6 DIRECT HOUSING LOANS SHALL BE OVER AND ABOVE, AND 7 SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT OF, THE ANNUAL 8 BEINVESTIBLE FUNDS FOR LONG TERM MORTGAGES WHICH SSS 9 MAKES AVAILABLE TO THE NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE 10 FINANCE CORPORATION, INCLUDING DIRECT LOANS TO OR 11 PURCHASE SECURITIES FROM THE LATTER, AS ALLOWED 12 UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 90. THE INVESTIBLE FUND 13 FOR DIRECT HOUSING LOANS SHALL BE IN SUCH AMOUNT 14 AS SHALL BE SUFFICIENT TO SERVE THE HOUSING 15 DEMANDS OF THE COVERED EMPLOYEES; 16 "[(e)] AND IN [in] short and medium term 17 loans to covered employees AND PENSIONERS such as 18 salary, PENSION, educational, calamity and 19 emergency loans: Provided, That not more 20 [ten] THIRTY percent of the Investment Reserve 21 Fund at any time shall be invested for 22 [this] THESE 23 purposeS. "[(f)] (D) IN REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS AND 24 25 IN other income-earning projects and investments secured by first mortgages on real 26 estate OR OTHER collaterals ACCEPTABLE TO THE SSS: 27 PROVIDED, THAT SUCH PROJECTS AND INVESTMENTS 28 SHALL, [which] in the determination 29

the Commission, [shall] redound to the benefit

1 of the SSS, its members, as well as the public welfare: Provided, FURTHER, that any such 2 3 investments shall be made with due diligence and 4 prudence to earn the highest possible < 5 interest consistent with safety:[.] PROVIDED, 6 FINALLY, THAT SUCH INVESTMENTS SHALL NOT EXCEED 7 TEN PERCENT OF THE INVESTMENTS RESERVE FUND. 8 "[(i)] (E) In LOANS TO, OR IN bonds, PROMISSORY NOTES debentures, other or10 evidences of indebtedness of any solvent corporation or institution, INCLUDING 11 12 COOPERATIVES, created or existing under the 13 laws of the Philippines: Provided, That the 14 issuing, assuming or guaranteeing entity or 15 predecessors shall not have defaulted in the 16 payment of interest on any of its securities 17 and that during each of any three including the 18 last two of the five fiscal years 19 preceding the date of THE LOAN OR THE acquisition 20 by the SSS of such bonds, debentures, 21 PROMISSORY NOTES or other evidences of indebtedness, the net earnings of the issuing, 22 23 assuming or guaranteeing institution available 24 for its fixed charges, as hereinafter 25 defined, shall have been not less than one and 26 one-quarter times the total of its fixed 27 charges for such year: Provided, further, That 28 such investments shall not exceed ten percent of the Investment Reserve Fund. 29

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As used in this section, the term 'net

earnings available for fixed charges' shall mean 2 income after deducting operating and net 3 maintenance expenses, taxes other than income 4 taxes, depreciation and depletion; by excluding 5 extraordinary non-recurring items of income or appearing in the regular financial 7 expense of the issuing, assuming or statement 8 guaranteeing institution. The term 'fixed ' 9 charges' shall include interest on funded 10 unfunded debt, amortization of debt discount, 11 and rentals for leased properties. 1.2 "[(j)] **(F)** In preferred stocks of any 13 solvent corporation or institution created 14 or existing under the laws of 15 Philippines: Provided, That the issuing, 16 assuming, or guaranteeing entity orits 17 upon predecessors has paid regular dividends 18 its preferred or guaranteed stocks for a 19 period of at least three years next preceding 20 the date of investment in such preferred or 21 guaranteed stocks: Provided, further, That 22 if the stocks are guaranteed, the amount of 23 stocks so quaranteed is not in excess of 24 fifty percentum (50%) of the amount of the 25 preferred or common stocks, as the case may 26 be of the issuing corporations: Provided, 27 furthermore, That if the corporation 28 orinstitution has not paid dividends upon its 29 preferred stocks, the corporation or 30

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institution has sufficient retained 1 2 earnings to declare dividends for at least 3 vears on such preferred stock; [Provided, finally, That such investment 4 shall not exceed ten percent 5 of the Investment Reserve Fund.] 6 7 "[(k)] AND [In] in common stocks, OR WARRANTS TO COMMON STOCKS, of any solvent 9 corporation or institution created or existing 10 under the laws of the Philippines, listed in the 11 stock exchange with proven track record of 12 profitability and payment of dividends over the last three (3) years: Provided, finally, That 13 14 such investment shall not exceed ten (10%) percent 15 of the Investment Reserve Fund. "[(q)] SECTION 26-A. MORTGAGOR INSURANCE 16 ACCOUNT. - (A) As part of its investment 17 18 operations, the SSS shall act as insurer of all or part of its interests on SSS 19 20 properties, properties mortgaged to the SSS, or lives of mortgagors whose properties are 21 mortgaged to the SSS. For this purpose, the 22 23 sss shall establish a separate account to be 24 known as the "Mortgagors' Insurance Account". 25 All amounts received by the SSS in connection with the aforesaid insurance operations shall 26 be placed in the Mortgagors' Insurance 27 Account. The assets and liabilities of the 28 Mortgagors' Insurance Account shall at all 29 30 times be clearly identifiable and

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distinguishable from the assets 2 liabilities in all other accounts of the SSS. Notwithstanding any provision of law to 3 the · contrary, the assets held in the Mortgagors' 4 5 Insurance Account shall not be chargeable with the liabilities arising out of any other . business the SSS may conduct but shall be held . 7 and applied exclusively for the benefit of the 8 9 owners or beneficiaries of the insurance contracts issued by the SSS under this 10 11 paragraph. 12

"[(h)] (B) - The SSS may insure any its interests or part thereof with any private company or reinsurer. The Insurance Commission or its authorized representatives shall make an examination into the financial condition and methods of transacting business of the SSS at least once in two (2) years, but such examination shall be limited to the insurance operation of the SSS as authorized under this [section] PARAGRAPH and shall not embrace the other operations of the SSS; and the report of said examination shall be submitted to the Commission and a copy thereof shall furnished the Office of the President of the Philippines within a reasonable time after the close of the examination: Provided, That for each examination, the SSS shall pay to the Insurance Commission an amount equal to the actual expenses of the Insurance Commission in

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of the examination, including the 1 the conduct 2 salaries of the examiners and of the actuary 3 of the Insurance Commission who have been assigned to make such examination for the actual 4 time spent in said examination: Provided, 5 the general law on insurance AND 6 further, That AND REGULATIONS promulgated THE RULES 7 thereunder shall have suppletory application 8 conflict with the SSS 9 insofar as it is not in Law and its rules and regulations. 10 26. Section 28 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, 11

SEC. 26. Section 28 of R.A. No. 1161, as amended, is hereby further amended by amending paragraphs (b), (c), (d) and (e) thereof, to read as follows:

"(b) Whoever shall obtain or receive any money or check under this Act or any agreement thereunder, without being entitled thereto with intent to defraud any covered employee, employer or the SSS, shall be fined not less than five THOUSAND [hundred] pesos nor more than TWENTY [five] thousand pesos and imprisoned for not less than six YEARS AND ONE DAY [months] nor more than TWELVE [one] yearS.

"(c) Whoever buys, sells, offers for sale, uses, transfers or takes or gives in exchange, or pledges or gives in pledge, except as authorized in this Act or in regulations made pursuant thereto, any stamp, coupon, ticket, book or other device, prescribed pursuant to section twenty-three hereof by the Commission for the collection or payment of contributions required herein, shall

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be fined not less than five THOUSAND [hundred]
pesos nor more than TWENTY [five] thousand pesos,
or imprisoned for not less than six [months] YEARS
AND ONE DAY nor more than TWELVE [one] years, or
both, at the discretion of the court.

"(d) Whoever, with intent to defraud, alters, forges, makes or counterfeits any stamp, coupon, ticket, book or other device prescribed by the Commission for the collection or payment of any contribution required herein, or uses, sells, lends, or has in his possession any such altered, forged, or counterfeited materials, or uses, sells or has in his possession any material imitation of the material used the manufacture of such stamp, coupon, ticket, or other device, shall be fined not less than FIVE [one] thousand pesos nor more than TWENTY thousand pesos, or imprisoned for not less SIX [one] vearS AND ONE DAY nor more than TWELVE [five] years, or both, at the discretion of court.

"(e) Whoever fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act or with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five THOUSAND [hundred] pesos nor more than TWENTY [five] thousand pesos, or imprisonment for not less than six YEARS AND ONE DAY [months] nor more than TWELVE [one] yearS or both, at the discretion of the court: Provided, That where the violation

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failure or refusal to register 1 consists in employees or himself, in case of the covered self-2 contributions to deduct 3 employed, oremployees' compensation and remit the same to the 4 SSS, the penalty shall be a fine of not less 5 five THOUSAND [hundred] pesos nor more than TWENTY 6 [five] thousand pesos and imprisonment for 7 less than six YEARS AND ONE DAY [months nor 8 more than TWELVE [one] yearS: PROVIDED, FURTHER, 9 THAT WHERE THE VIOLATION CONSISTS IN THE FAILURE 10 REMIT THE CONTRIBUTIONS ALREADY DEDUCTED FROM 11 THE EMPLOYEES, THE PENALTY SHALL BE A FINE OF FIFTY 12 THOUSAND PESOS BUT IN NO CASE LESS THAN DOUBLE THE 13 AMOUNT UNREMITTED AND IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT LESS 14 THAN TWELVE (12) YEARS." 15 27. Repealing Clause - A laws, proclamations, SEC. 16 17 executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified or 18 19 amended accordingly. SEC. 28. Separability Clause - If any provision of this 20 is held invalid, the other provisions not affected 21 Act thereby shall remain yalid. 22 SEC. 23. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect 23

24 fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official

25 Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of

26 general circulation whichever comes earlier.

27 Approved,