

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1875

To extend the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept certain documents as proof of service in determining the eligibility of a person to receive amounts from such Fund.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Mr. HECK of Nevada (for himself, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To extend the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to accept certain documents as proof of service in determining the eligibility of a person to receive amounts from such Fund.

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 Rec-
5 ognition Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY COM-**
2 **PENSATION FUND AND PROOF OF ELIGI-**
3 **BILITY.**

4 (a) **EXTENDED APPLICATION PERIOD.**—Subsection
5 (c) of section 1002 of the American Recovery and Rein-
6 vestment Act of 2009 (division A of Public Law 111–5;
7 38 U.S.C. 107 note) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following new paragraph:

9 “(3) **EXTENDED APPLICATION PERIOD.**—Not-
10 withstanding paragraph (1), and subject to the
11 availability of amounts made available to the com-
12 pensation fund before the date of the enactment of
13 this paragraph, the Secretary may make a payment
14 from the compensation fund to an eligible person
15 who, during the one-year period beginning on the
16 date of the enactment of this paragraph, submits to
17 the Secretary—

18 “(A) a claim for benefits under this sec-
19 tion; or

20 “(B) with respect to a person who filed a
21 claim for benefits under this section during the
22 period described in paragraph (1), a new claim
23 or an appeal to such previously filed claim.”.

24 (b) **PROOF.**—Such section 1002 is further amended
25 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

26 “(m) **USE OF AGO FORM 23.**—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other
2 documents that the Secretary accepts as proof of
3 service described in subsection (d), the Secretary
4 shall accept as proof of such service an affidavit
5 from the government of the Philippines certifying
6 such service of an eligible individual (AGO Form
7 23). Such an affidavit shall serve as proof of such
8 service regardless of whether the eligible indi-
9 vidual—

10 “(A) submits any other document accepted
11 by the Secretary to establish such proof; or

12 “(B) is included in the Approved Revised
13 Reconstructed Guerilla Roster of 1948, known
14 as the ‘Missouri List’.

15 “(2) PROOF OF SERVICE ONLY FOR THIS SEC-
16 TION.—The Secretary may not accept an affidavit
17 described in paragraph (1) as proof of service for
18 any benefit provided under a law administered by
19 the Secretary other than the compensation fund
20 under this section.”.

21 “(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or the
22 amendments made by this section shall be construed as
23 authorizing additional amounts to be appropriated to the

- 1 Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund established
- 2 by such section 1002.

