

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1277

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE


The Philippine is a member of the community of nations. As such, "*.....it adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the laws of the land and adheres to the policy of peace, equality, justice, freedom cooperation, and amity with all nations*" (Section 2, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution). Furthermore, it pursues an independent foreign policy and "*.....in its relations with other states, the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination*" (Section 7, Article II, 1987 Philippine Constitution).

The crafting and handling of our foreign relations fall within the jurisdictional ambit of the Department of Foreign Affairs pursuant to Republic Act No. 7157, otherwise known as the Philippine Foreign Service Act. Said law also created the Career Foreign Service Corps whose members represent our country abroad and provided for their compensation and other benefits while on such assignment.

Due to technological advances and the ever-changing and evolving political, economic, social and security environments, international relations have become more intricate and complex. Thus, the participation and involvement of technical personnel who are tasked to project their respective departments, bureaus and agencies in the international community on such varied subjects as trade, tourism, labor, agriculture and defense has become necessary. These personnel are designated as service attaches and are provided with assimilated diplomatic ranks while stationed abroad. They receive their compensation, to include allowances and benefits, from their respective offices or agencies.

However, the allowances and other benefits of these service attaches differ from those of their counterparts in the Department of Foreign Affairs. There is therefore a need to standardize the foreign allowances and other benefits of the former by making the same at par with the latter based on their having the same diplomatic ranks. This will motivate and serve as an incentive to these service attaches in the performance of their duties.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this proposed measure is earnestly sought.


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

AN ACT
STANDARDIZING THE ALLOWANCES, PER DIEMS, TRAVEL EXPENSES AND
OTHER BENEFITS OF SERVICE ATTACHES FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS,
BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ON DETAIL ABROAD,
WITH THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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

Section 1. – *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to continuously enhance and promote professionalism in the Civil Service. Toward this end, it shall standardize the compensation of its civil servants thereby providing them with the incentive to exert their utmost in the performance of their duties.

Sec. 2. *Appointment of Service Attaches.* – The authority to appoint service attaches shall be vested with the Secretaries of the departments sending said officials on detail abroad.

Sec. 3. *Assignment and Accreditation of Service Attaches.* – The assignment and accreditation of personnel from other departments, bureaus and agencies of the government as service attaches to embassies shall have prior clearance from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Sec. 4. *Allowances, Per Diems, Travel Expenses and Other Benefits of Service Attaches Stationed Abroad.* – While stationed abroad, service attaches shall receive, when applicable, the same allowances, per diems, travel expenses and other benefits being received by their counterparts from the Department of Foreign Affairs on their assimilated diplomatic ranks.

Sec. 5. *Responsibility of the Departments, Bureaus and Agencies of Service Attaches.* – The departments, bureaus and agencies of the service attaches concerned shall be primarily responsible for, and be the source of, financial requirements in the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amounts necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budgets of the departments, bureaus or agencies of the service attaches in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision or part hereof is declared invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,