

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9828, December 03, 2009]

AN ACT CREATING THE MILITARY SERVICE BOARD AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Creation of the Board.* — A Military Service Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is hereby created to review and reevaluate pending claim-applications previously filed in the former Military Service Boards by any person who claims to have performed military service in the Philippines during the period beginning December 8, 1941 and ending July 3, 1946, and to determine the validity of the claims for the purpose of confirming the military service rendered and qualifying the applicants for military veterans status.

The Board shall be supervised by the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) under the general supervision of the Department of National Defense.

SEC. 2. *Composition.* — The Board shall be composed of a retired military officer, preferably a World War II veteran, as Chairperson, two (2) representatives from the PVAO and two (2) veterans of World War II from the recognized veteran's organizations. They shall be appointed by the Secretary of National Defense from a list of nominees submitted by the PVAO.

SEC. 3. *Period of Existence.* — The Board shall cease to exist three (3) years after the effectivity of this Act or until such time that the last application shall have been processed, but not exceeding five (5) years.

SEC. 4. *Limitation.* — The Board shall consider only those applications already filed and pending with the Military Service Boards which were created pursuant to Republic Act No. 8440 and Executive Order No. 198, series of 2003.

SEC. 5. *Application by Survivors.* — An application for confirmation of military service submitted by the surviving spouse, child or parent in behalf of the deceased person shall be treated as an application by such person.

SEC. 6. *Evidence to be Considered.* — In evaluating any claim for military service, the Board shall consider all available information and evidence, both testimonial and documentary, including official unit historical records and personnel records in the various agencies and offices of the government and any other evidence submitted by or on behalf of the applicant. The Board shall automate all records of the applicant including their supporting evidence for future reference.

SEC. 7. *Fraudulent Claims.* — When fraud is shown to have been committed by or