

Introduced by Senator Yee

March 8, 2010

Senate Joint Resolution No. 25—Relative to the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 25, as introduced, Yee. Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund.

This measure would urge the President of the United States, Congress, and the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs to expedite funding, and lessen the amount of required documentation necessary to allow eligible Filipino and Filipino American veterans to receive payments provided under the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed
- 2 into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
- 3 (ARRA) (Public Law 111-5), which authorizes cash payments to
- 4 Filipino and Filipino American veterans of World War II; and
- 5 WHEREAS, Through the ARRA Congress authorized the United
- 6 States Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a total amount
- 7 of compensation equaling approximately \$198 million to soldiers
- 8 of the Philippine Government who served in the armed forces prior
- 9 to July 1, 1946, while those forces were in the service of the Armed
- 10 Forces of the United States; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Some recognized guerilla forces and Philippine
- 12 Scouts may also be eligible for these payments; and

1 WHEREAS, All Filipino and Filipino American veterans are
2 required to fill a VA claim form 21-4138 (CF) Statement in Support
3 of Claim in order to receive payment from the Filipino Veterans
4 Equity Compensation Fund; and

5 WHEREAS, If found to be eligible, Filipino and Filipino
6 American veterans or their survivors will receive a one-time
7 payment of \$15,000 for United States citizens, and \$9,000 for
8 non-United States citizens, and applying for this cash payment
9 will not affect those veterans' eligibility for other existing veterans'
10 benefits; and

11 WHEREAS, As of January 1, 2010, 39,591 claims for payments
12 have been received and 11,345 applications for benefit payments
13 have been granted; now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved, by the Senate and Assembly of the State of California,*
15 *jointly,* That the California Legislature respectfully urges the
16 President of the United States, Congress, and the United States
17 Department of Military Affairs to expedite funding, and lessen the
18 amount of required documentation necessary to allow eligible
19 Filipino and Filipino American veterans to receive payments
20 provided under the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund;
21 and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
23 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.