

10 JUL 12 P3:43

**SENATE**

Senate Bill No. 1276

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**INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The purpose of this bill is to give "spirit and soul" on the Constitutional provision, specifically Article XIV, Section 18, subsection 2, which states:

"The State shall encourage and support researches and studies on the arts and culture"

Under our constitution, arts and letters enjoy the patronage of the state and the state shall conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.

The National Artists are the national geniuses of the country and therefore deserve encouragement and recognition. Our National Artists are the ones that express the true and beautiful culture of the Philippines through their letters and arts. The honors, privileges and cash awards are given to our National Artists in recognition of their valuable and priceless work, truly reflective of the culture and heritage of the Philippines.

The privileges granted to them under Presidential Decree No. 208 have depreciated in value and do not serve the purposes for which they were granted. An increase in these privileges is, indeed, necessary in the light of present economic conditions.

  
**MANNY VILLAR**

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**AN ACT  
INCREASING THE CASH AWARDS OF NATIONAL ARTISTS, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 208**

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

**SECTION 1.** The first paragraphs of Presidential Decree No. 208 is  
hereby amended to read as follows:

"The following privileges and honors, among others, shall  
henceforth be made available to National Artists:

1. A cash award of ONE HUNDRED [ten] Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) [(P10,000)] upon conferment of the award and decoration of National Artist;
2. A life pension of TEN [two] Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) [(P2,000)] payable monthly;
3. Medical and hospitalization benefits;
4. Coverage by a lifetime insurance policy in the amount of ONE HUNDRED [fifty] Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) [(P50,000)] by the Government Service Insurance System and/or private insurance companies from date of conferment of the award, in the event the National Artist is insurable, the premiums for which shall be paid by the National Government or by donation from any governmental or private entities;
5. A place of honor in state functions, national commemoration ceremonies and all other cultural presentations; and
6. A state funeral, the arrangements for and the expenses of which shall be borne by the Government, upon the death of the National Artist. "

**SECTION 2.** The amount as may be necessary to carry into effect the purpose of this Act is hereby appropriated and shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 3.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,