

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4083



Introduced by **HON. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, ORGANIZATION,
AND ADMINISTRATION OF BASIC RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) IN
GRADES 11 AND 12 IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CITIZEN
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State has the prime duty to serve and protect its people, especially in times of war, calamities, disasters, etc. This is espoused in Section 4, Article II of the 1987 Constitution which further states that: "...The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service."

In this regard, the State must enhance its capacity to produce the needed manpower and expand its human resources in times of war, calamities, and disasters, and national or local emergencies, by creating a pool of trained reservists.

The proposed measure, which allows for the conduct of civic and basic military training to students in Grades 11 and 12, shall provide the following incentives for those undergoing the ROTC program: (1) Eligibility for commissioning/lateral entry and enlistment in the AFP, PNP, Coast Guard, BJMP, and BFP; (2) Free hospitalization in any government hospital in case of an accident during the training; and (3) Access and privileges to any AFP Commissary and PX stores nationwide.

In addition, the proposed ROTC program emphasizes the development and improvement of health, education, ecology, and environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and management, human and civil rights awareness, and law enforcement.

This measure is based upon the final version of the ROTC Bill authored by the Honorable Representatives Abu, Tupas, Violago, Alejano, Escudero, Robes, Nieto, and Sy-Alvarado during the Seventeenth Congress. I thank them for their work and effort. I hope that my input will help in the improvement of the proposed measure.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING".

REP. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Act".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Constitutional Policy.* – The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service. In the same manner, the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building, shall promote civic consciousness among the youth, and shall develop their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism, and nationalism, and encourage involvement in public and civic affairs.

Towards this end, the State shall enhance the capacity of the nation to produce the needed manpower and to expand its human resources in times of war, calamities and disasters, national or local emergencies, and in support of the Government's law enforcement strategy against crimes, by creating a pool of trained reservists.

SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – The conduct of military training under the ROTC shall apply to all students in Grades 11 and 12 in all senior high schools in public and private educational institutions.

SEC. 4. *Establishment of ROTC Program in all Public and Private Educational Institutions.*

- a. There is hereby established a mandatory two (2) year Basic ROTC program for students enrolled in Grades 11 and 12 which shall form part of the basic curricula for the Senior High School Education in any public and private educational institutions in pursuance of the provisions of the National Defense Act and the 1987 Constitution, to produce well-trained and prepared reservists for military and civic service. The ROTC training aims to instill patriotism, nationalism, love of country, moral and spiritual virtues, respect for human rights, and adherence to the Constitution.
- b. In no way shall the ROTC be used for political aims, to teach or instill a particular ideology, and as a mechanism for hazing and abuse.

- c. The ROTC shall include the following program of instruction:
 - (1) Enhancing the student's consciousness of the ethics of service, patriotism and nationalism, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, strengthening ethical and spiritual values, developing personal discipline and leadership and to encourage creative thinking for scientific and technological development;
 - (2) Basic military training for students to motivate, train, organize and utilize for national defense preparedness or civil-military operations: Provided, That no student below the age of eighteen (18) years shall take a direct part in hostilities.
 - (3) Civic training for students to be active participants and volunteers for the development and improvement of health, education, ecology, and environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and management, human and civil rights awareness, and law enforcement.
- d. Any student who fails to undergo the mandatory Basic ROTC by this Act shall not be qualified for graduation. In addition, thereto, the non-taking of Basic ROTC by any student shall be a ground for Compulsory Military Training in pursuance of Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7077. Any educational institution that fails to institute and implement the ROTC program in pursuance of this Act shall be subject to disciplinary and administrative sanctions as the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) may impose.
- e. Guided by the provision of Section 4(b) hereof, the Department of National Defense (DND), DepEd, and TESDA, in consultation with other relevant government agencies and private stakeholders as the Secretary of National Defense may determine, shall design and formulate the Program of Instruction (POI) on the Basic ROTC program in Grades 11 and 12, within sixty (60) days from approval of this Act and shall jointly issue the implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Students Exempted from this Act.* – The following may be exempted from the coverage of this Act:

- a. Those who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Surgeon General or his authorized medical officer, in pursuance of the recommendation of the educational institutions where the concerned student is enrolled;
- b. Those who have undergone or are undergoing similar military training; and
- c. Those who may be exempted from training for valid reasons as approved by the DND, upon recommendation by any educational institution where the concerned student is enrolled.

SEC. 6. *Acceptance for Advance ROTC.* – Students who volunteer for the Advance ROTC program in universities, colleges, vocational schools, and other tertiary institutions shall be governed by Section 40 of RA 7077, or the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act. The provisions of Section 42 and 43 of Republic Act No. 7077 in terms of training, uniforms, and supplies, and the scholarship incentive shall remain effective and applicable for those accepted in the Advance ROTC course.

SEC. 7. *Organization, Operation, and Maintenance of ROTC Units.* – The organization, operation, and maintenance for the establishment of ROTC shall be by Sections 41 and 42 of Republic Act No. 7077 which shall remain effective and operative unless inconsistent with this Act. The Secretary of National Defense, in consultation with the DepEd and TESDA, shall prescribe the organization and operational manual of ROTC units in public and private educational institutions for Grades 11 and 12:

Provided, That such educational institutions shall be required to provide an adequate office for the ROTC administrative staff assigned thereat.

The AFP shall create an office dedicated to the supervision and administration of the ROTC program within the Reserve Commands of the AFP in coordination with the DepEd and TESDA.

SEC. 8. *Incentives for Undergoing ROTC Program.* –

- a. Subject to other requirements prescribed by rules and regulations, graduates of Basic ROTC shall be eligible for commissionship/lateral entry and enlistment in the AFP, Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) unless a waiver is issued by the Department Secretaries of the aforementioned military and civilian armed forces.
- b. Students undergoing Basic ROTC and those accepted in the ROTC Advance Course shall be provided with free hospitalization in any government hospital in case of accident or injury during the training. Mandatory insurance for all students undergoing ROTC shall be provided by the government as part of the ROTC Program.
- c. Students undergoing Basic and Advance ROTC shall be given access and privileges with any AFP Commissary and PX Stores nationwide. The Chief of Staff of the AFP shall issue the necessary regulations for the implementation of this privilege.

SEC. 9. *The ROTC Grievance Board.* – There shall be created a Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) Grievance Board composed of one (1) representative from the Department of National Defense and two (2) representatives from the Department of Education with the more senior representative from the Department of Education as Chairperson. These representatives shall be appointed for their known integrity, probity, and independence.

The ROTC Grievance Board shall have the following powers:

- a. Investigate and resolve any complaints, in any form, involving corruption and abuse, in any form, in the ROTC Program;
- b. Ensure that the ROTC Program is free from politicization and from being used to instill a particular ideology; and
- c. Recommend policies and reforms to ensure adherence of the ROTC Program to the Constitution and all laws penalizing abuse in any form.

All decisions of the ROTC Grievance Board shall be appealable to the Office of the President.

SEC. 10. *Liability of the Educational Institution.* – The instructor or faculty in charge of the ROTC shall be responsible for monitoring the activities involved in the ROTC. The instructor or the faculty-in-charge must be a duly recognized active member, in good standing, of the faculty at the school in which the ROTC course is being implemented.

The school or the university and its administrators shall exercise special parental authority and supervise the implementation of the ROTC.

In case of violation of any of the provisions of this Act and other related laws, the instructor or faculty-in-charge and the school or university and its officials shall be responsible and liable for any damage or injury caused to a student.

SEC. 11. *Funding.* – The funding required to implement the establishment, maintenance, and operations of the ROTC Program shall be included in the budget of the implementing agencies/departments in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7077, or the "Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act", and all other laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,