

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session

'04 JUN 30 P 6:59

SENATE

S. No. 548

RECEIVED BY: *Dele*

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Children of firefighters are often faced with an uncertain future as their fathers/mothers take on the task of saving life and property during fire and other emergencies.

This proposed measure seeks to provide the firefighter some security in the event that he/she dies in the line of duty or of an occupation-related illness by providing educational benefits for minor orphaned children of firefighters.

Benefits will include tuition and a reasonable allowance for books, school supplies, transportation, clothing and food.

With this bill, it is hoped that our firefighters will be given additional incentives and security to carry out effectively the demands of their profession.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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S. No. 548 RECEIVED BY: *Ordo*

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR THE MINOR LEGITIMATE
OR LEGALLY ADOPTED CHILDREN OF FIREFIGHTERS WHO ARE KILLED IN THE
LINE OF DUTY OR OF OCCUPATION-RELATED ILLNESS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Coverage.* - This Act shall cover legitimate children whose firefighter father and/or mother was/were killed in the line of duty or of occupation-related illness during or prior to the approval of this Act provided said children are still minors upon the approval hereof.

Beneficiaries who reach the age of majority and remains unmarried while enjoying the benefits of this Act but have not completed their secondary education shall continue to be entitled to the benefits until they complete secondary education.

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act,

- a. "Child" means a legitimate or legally adopted child;
- b. "Line of duty" means:
 1. Responding or returning from a call of the department for a fire, or emergency or training drill; or
 2. Similar service in another municipality or city to which the department has been called for firefighting or emergency purposes.
- c. "Occupation-related illness" means a disease that directly arises out of, and in the course of service, including a heart injury or symptomatic disease.
- d. "Parent" means a natural or adoptive parent
- e. "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government;
"DILG" means the Department of the Interior and Local Government

SECTION 3. *Educational Benefits for Orphaned Minor Legitimate or Legally*

Adopted Children. - Minor legitimate or legally adopted children of firefighters, who were killed in the line of duty or dies of an occupation-related illness shall be entitled to educational benefits from the time they are orphaned up to their completion of their secondary education.

The benefits shall include tuition fees, reasonable allowances for books, school supplies, transportation, clothing and food.

SECTION 4. *Administration of the Education Benefits System.* - The Secretary of the DILG or the head of the agency concerned shall designate the officer who shall administer the educational benefit system for the orphaned minor legitimate or legally adopted children covered under this Act.

The Secretary shall designate the office which shall administer the educational benefit system for the orphaned minor legitimate or legally adopted children of firefighters and promulgate rules and regulations thereof.

SECTION 5. *Funds for Educational Benefits.* - There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the National Treasury nor otherwise appropriated, the amount of Four Million pesos (P4,000,000.00) for the educational benefits of orphaned minor legitimate or legally adopted children covered under this Act for the initial year of operation. Thereafter, the amount required for said educational benefits shall be included in the annual appropriations of the concerned agency.

SECTION 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Secretary, in coordination with other related agencies and bureaus, shall promulgate and implement rules and regulations within ninety days following the approval of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,