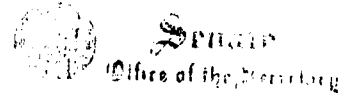
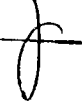


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'16 AUG -1 P1:51

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 956

Introduced by Senator **SONNY ANGARA**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS, CREATING THE
MILITARY DEPENDENTS WELFARE OFFICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 3, Article II of the Constitution declares that "the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State", particularly in securing the sovereignty of the Philippines and the integrity of its national territory as its main goal.

While we must not overlook the obligation of the State to safeguard our sovereignty by modernizing the military, it must be viewed that modernization of our Armed Forces cannot be in terms of equipment, facilities, and skills alone but must also be accompanied by better and improved benefits for military personnel, most importantly their families. It is also the primary concern of the State to grant adequate remuneration and benefits for members of the Armed Forces.

In accordance with Constitutional provisions, this measure provides the necessary framework of institutionalizing benefits for military dependents and emphasizes on increasing benefits on the dependents for health, housing, education, among other benefits.

Therefore, expeditious passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SONNY ANGARA

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SENATE

S.B. No. 956

BY: 

Introduced by Senator SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS, CREATING THE MILITARY
DEPENDENTS WELFARE OFFICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "**Military Dependent's Benefits Act.**"

2
3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It shall be the policy of the state to ensure the prosperity and
4 well-being of its citizens through policies and programs that provide adequate social services,
5 promote rising standards of living and an improved quality of life for all.

6 Moreover, the state recognizes the vital role of the military in the protection of our
7 country's sovereignty and should therefore ensure the promotion and improvement of the social
8 and economic status of military personnel and their dependents.

9 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Act the following shall mean:

- 10 a) "Military Dependent" - refers to the wife, children and other persons dependent on the
11 military personnel for chief support, duly registered with the Moral and Welfare Division,
12 Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel J1 of the Armed Forces of the
13 Philippines.
14 b) "AFP Military Personnel" - shall include all active and incapacitated members of the
15 Armed Forces of the Philippines.

16 **SEC. 4. Educational Benefits.** Dependents of military personnel not exceeding four (4) shall be
17 entitled to educational assistance in any of the following educational levels with the indicated
18 amount of support per school year and corresponding durations as follows:

Educational level	Amount of Support (Per year)	Duration
College	P6,000.00	4/5 years
Vocational	P4,000.00	2 years
Secondary	P3,000.00	6 years
Elementary	P2,000.00	6 years

1 **SEC. 5. Health Benefits.** Dependents of Military personnel shall be entitled to the following
2 health benefits to be provided by AFP Health Facilities located in various parts of the country:

- 3 a) Free Hospitalization, inclusive of Professional Services, Medicines, and Medical
4 Supplies
- 5 b) Dispensary or Outpatient Services
- 6 c) Ambulance Services
- 7 d) Free Dental Services

8 **SEC. 6. Housing Benefits.** All military personnel and their dependents shall be provide with the
9 necessary housing subject to the eligibility and priority system set by the Major Service/Unit
10 Housing Boards of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Housing, especially Off-Base housing
11 in preparation for retirement will be provided additional funding.

12 **SEC. 7. Commissary Benefits.** All military dependents shall be entitled to the benefit/privilege
13 of purchasing tax-exempt merchandise from any of the AFPCES units either cash or salary
14 check.

15 **SEC. 8. Other Benefits and Privileges.** Military dependents shall continue to receive all other
16 existing benefits and privileges.

17
18 **SEC. 9. Creation of the Military Dependents Welfare Office.** There is hereby created a
19 Military Dependents Welfare Office, herein after referred to as the Office, which shall be
20 attached to the Morale and Welfare Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, J-
21 1 Armed Forces of the Philippines, for the coordination and recommendation of policies and
22 programs for military dependents.

23 **SEC. 10. Functions of the Office.** The Office shall have the powers and functions:

- 24 a) To act as coordinating body for all issues and concerns of military dependents.
- 25 b) To formulate and institutionalize the necessary system and mechanism to ensure the
26 effective and responsive delivery of benefits for military dependents.
- 27 c) To facilitate and ensure the swift release of benefits to the Military Dependents.
- 28 d) To review existing benefits and recommend the necessary improvements to ensure
29 better benefits for Military Dependents.
- 30 e) To annually recommend to the Department of National Defense appropriations for
31 military dependent's benefits under the budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines,

32 **SEC. 11. Coordination with Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans,
33 Associations Incorporated (AFPSLAI) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines
34 Retirement Separation Benefit System (AFPRSBS).** The Military Dependents' benefits office
35 shall coordinate with the AFPSLAI and AFPRSBS to facilitate and ensure the release of benefits
36 for military dependents.

1 **SEC. 12. Appropriations.** The Department of National Defense shall, every year allocate a
2 portion of their annual budget for the support of this Act.

3

4 **SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** The Department of National Defense shall
5 promulgate the Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

6

7 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** All Republic Acts, Executive Orders, Presidential Decrees, laws,
8 rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9

10 **SEC. 15. Separability Clause.** If, for any reason, any Section or part of this Act is declared
11 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining sections or parts not affected thereby shall remain in
12 full force and effect.

13

14 **SEC. 16. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days from the date of its
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

16

17 Approved,