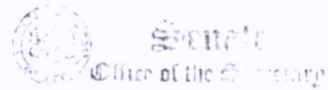


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'19 JUL 11 P 4:03

**SENATE**

**S. B. No. 393**

RECEIVED BY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY OFFICER OR  
ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND  
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ON ANY CHARGE BEFORE  
THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, COURT OR ANY COMPETENT BODY ARISING  
FROM AN INCIDENT OR INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE  
OF OFFICIAL DUTY**

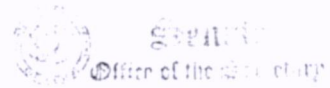
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Our peacekeepers, the members of our Armed Forces and Philippine National Police, are seen as dispensers of justice who place their lives on the line on a daily basis so that we may enjoy the peace and freedom envisioned under the Constitution. It is, however, often overlooked how these people tasked to defend our safety, security, and freedom, are also in need of defenders for the protection of their own rights. Thus, like any other sector of the society, our military and police, should not be denied access to legal assistance which they may need as a consequence of the faithful performance of their official duties.

Where costs of litigation could, at times, prove to be too burdensome, for the meager livelihood earned by our soldiers and police officers, the State must do its part to ensure that those tasked with the duty to serve and protect, are adequately served and protected.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is hereby earnestly sought.

  
**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO**



'19 JUL 11 P 4:04

SENATE  
S. B. No. 393

RECEIVED BY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY OFFICER OR**  
**ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND**  
**THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ON ANY CHARGE BEFORE**  
**THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, COURT OR ANY COMPETENT BODY ARISING**  
**FROM AN INCIDENT OR INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE**  
**OF OFFICIAL DUTY**

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

1 Section 1. Any officer or enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the  
2 Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), who is facing before the  
3 prosecutor's office, court, administrative or any competent body, any charge arising  
4 from an incident or incidents related to the performance of official duty shall be  
5 entitled to free legal assistance.

6 Sec. 2. Within twenty four (24) hours from the official receipt of the  
7 information that the officer or enlisted personnel is charged, the Chief of Staff of the  
8 AFP, the Chairperson of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) or the Chief of  
9 the PNP shall authorize the legal office of their respective agencies, with the  
10 assistance of the Public Attorneys Office, to provide free legal assistance to any  
11 officer or enlisted personnel of the AFP and the PNP for the purpose of the  
12 immediately preceding section.

13 Sec. 3. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the effective  
14 implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the Legal Defense Fund funded  
15 through the General Appropriations Act.

1           Sec. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from  
2 the effectivity of this Act, the Public Attorneys Office, in coordination with the AFP,  
3 NAPOLCOM and the PNP, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to  
4 implement this Act.

5           Sec. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
6 its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,