

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

'19 AUG 20 AIO :31

SENATE  
S. No. 927

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**AN ACT  
REQUIRING BASIC CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING ESTABLISHING THE  
CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE CITIZEN SERVICE  
COMMISSION FOR THIS PURPOSE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to Section 4 of Article II of the 1987 Constitution, "[t]he 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." Section 13 of the same article provides that "[t]he State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs." To provide implementing legislation to these basic tenets in the Constitution, this bill proposes to require basic citizen service training, establish the citizen service corps, and create the Citizen Service Commission.


Full time basic citizen service training ("Basic Training") for at least six (6) weeks will be encouraged of all and shall be mandatory for all Filipino students enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses. The citizen service corps ("Corps") shall be composed of all Filipino citizens at least eighteen (18) years of age and may be called upon and mobilized to assist in matters of external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

All those who have completed Basic Training shall form part of the trained Corps. This will create a pool of trained members of the Corps who can render personal military or civil service in times of war, lawlessness, and calamities and disasters. For national security, public order, and public safety, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator

**SENATE**  
S. No. 927

'19 AUG 20 A10 :31

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **Senator Richard J. Gordon**

**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING BASIC CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING ESTABLISHING THE**  
**CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE CITIZEN SERVICE**  
**COMMISSION FOR THIS PURPOSE, 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 "Citizen Service Act  
2 of 2019."

3       **SEC. 2. Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to require basic citizen service  
4 training and establish the citizen service corps through which the citizenry, particularly  
5 the youth, are enabled to render personal military or civil service.

6       It is also the policy of the State to inculcate patriotism and nationalism in the  
7 citizenry, particularly the youth, and encourage their involvement in public and civic  
8 affairs.

9       **SEC. 3. Basic Training.** – Full time basic citizen service training ("Basic  
10 Training") for at least six (6) weeks per year for a period of two (2) years shall be  
11 encouraged of all Filipino citizens, but shall be mandatory for all Filipino students, male  
12 and female, enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses  
13 and are at least eighteen (18) years of age. Basic Training shall include the following  
14 fundamental components: (1) External and Territorial Defense Training; (2) Internal  
15 Security and Peace and Order Training; and (3) Disaster Risk Reduction and  
16 Management Training. It shall also include training on marches and ground troop  
17 movement; leadership, discipline, and nationalism; and tactics. They shall, upon such  
18 rules and regulations as the Commission may provide, be allowed to carry real rifles.

19       Filipino citizens subject to the Basic Training, but with medical condition that  
20 prevents them from participating therein without risk to health, may in lieu thereof  
21 participate in (1) First Aid and Life Support; (2) Disaster Risk Reduction and  
22 Management and such other (3) Humanitarian trainings as the Philippine Red Cross  
23 may provide subject to the rules and regulations of the Commission.

24       **SEC. 4. Mandatory Coverage.** – Basic Training shall form part of the curricula  
25 of all baccalaureate degree courses and all technical vocational courses in the  
26 Philippines.

1           **SEC. 5. *The Corps.*** – The citizen service corps (“Corps”) shall be composed of  
2 all Filipino citizens at least eighteen (18) years of age. All those who have completed  
3 Basic Training shall form part of the trained Corps. The Corps may be called upon and  
4 mobilized to assist in matters of external and territorial defense, internal security and  
5 peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

6           **SEC. 6. *The Commission.*** – A citizen service commission (“Commission”) is  
7 hereby created under the Office of the President to be in charge of Basic Training, the  
8 Corps, and the implementation of this Act.

9           **SEC. 7. *Composition of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall be composed  
10 of a Chairperson, four (4) Commissioners to be appointed by the President, and the  
11 following four (4) ex-officio Commissioners: the Secretary of the Department of  
12 National Defense (DND), the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local  
13 Government (DILG), the Chairperson of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED),  
14 and the Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority  
15 (TESDA). The *ex-officio* Commissioners may be represented in the Commission by  
16 their duly authorized representatives with the rank of at least Assistant Secretary for  
17 the DND and the DILG, Commissioner for the CHED, and Board Member for the  
18 TESDA.

19           The Chairperson and the four (4) Commissioners to be appointed by the  
20 President shall be citizens and residents of the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35)  
21 years of age, of good moral character, of recognized probity and independence, and,  
22 through their training, experience, and education, must have distinguished themselves  
23 as best suited to discharge the duties of the Commission. The Chairperson shall have  
24 the rank equivalent to a cabinet secretary and the four (4) Commissioners to be  
25 appointed by the President shall have the rank equivalent to an undersecretary.

26           **SEC. 8. *Quorum.*** – Five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute a  
27 quorum and the affirmative vote of at least a majority of those present, there being a  
28 quorum, shall be required for the adoption of a resolution or an official act by the  
29 Commission.

30           **SEC. 9. *Term of Office.*** – The term of office of the Chairperson and the four  
31 (4) Commissioners to be appointed by the President shall be four (2) years, except as  
32 provided in the succeeding paragraph. They may be reappointed; provided that, no  
33 such official shall serve for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

34           Of those first appointed by the President, the Chairperson and the first two (2)  
35 Commissioners to be appointed shall hold office for four (4) years, while the last two  
36 (2) Commissioners to be appointed shall hold office for two (2) years. Appointment to  
37 any vacancy in such office shall be only for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

38           **SEC. 10. *Powers of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall have the following  
39 powers:

40           (1) Design, prescribe, and approve the programs of instruction for Basic  
41 Training and other advanced training, including specialized courses under specific  
42 circumstances taking into consideration relevant factors, such as age, health, abilities,  
43 and others;

44           (2) Ensure the proper administration of Basic Training and other advanced  
45 training;

46           (3) Exercise control, supervision, and audit over all agencies, officers, and  
47 persons, directly implementing Basic Training and other advanced training;

1 (4) Provide incentives, including scholarships, to encourage Filipino citizens to  
2 do Basic Training and other advanced training:

3 (5) Deploy and mobilize the Corps;

4 (6) Investigate or secure the services or assistance of the appropriate agencies  
5 to investigate cases of corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment, and other abuses  
6 in the conduct of Basic Training and other advanced training, mobilization of the Corps,  
7 and implementation of this Act;

8 (7) Issue serial numbers to members of the Corps;

9 (8) Maintain a registry of all members of the Corps;

10 (9) Promulgate appropriate rules and regulations to fully implement this Act;

11 (10) Appoint, fix the compensation, and determine the status, qualifications,  
12 and duties of the personnel of the Commission; and

13 (11) Exercise such other powers as are necessary or essential to fully implement  
14 this Act.

15 **SEC. 11. Mobilization.** The Commission shall mobilize *motu proprio* or upon  
16 request the Corps to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities  
17 and the local government units in their functions related to external and territorial  
18 defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and  
19 management. A request for mobilization by the heads of such national government  
20 agencies or local government units may be submitted to the Commission, which shall  
21 contain a justification for mobilization of the Corps and other information as may be  
22 required by the Commission, including the nature of the national or local contingencies  
23 to be addressed, the purpose of the requested mobilization, the number of personnel  
24 requested to be mobilized and the period of mobilization. The Commission shall  
25 evaluate the request for mobilization and reply immediately or within seventy-two (72)  
26 hours from receipt of the request.

27 **SEC. 12. Duty to Respond.** – It shall be the duty of any member of the Corps  
28 called upon to respond to the order of mobilization by the Commission within twenty-  
29 four (24) hours from receipt thereof. Failure of any member of the Corps to respond  
30 to the order of mobilization by the Commission for external and territorial defense  
31 shall be punishable in accordance with the Articles of War, and shall, upon conviction  
32 by a court martial, be punishable by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but  
33 not more than two (2) years. Failure of any member of the Corps to respond to the  
34 order of mobilization by the Commission for internal security and peace and order, or  
35 disaster risk reduction and management shall, upon conviction by a civil court, be  
36 punished as follows: (1) First Offense: one hundred and twenty (120) hours of  
37 community service; (2) Second Offense; two hundred and forty (240) hours of  
38 community service; and (3) Third and Subsequent Offenses: six (6) months  
39 imprisonment and four hundred and eighty (480) hours of community service.

40 **SEC. 13. Duty of Employer.** – An employer shall grant leave of absence to an  
41 employee being mobilized under this Act. No employer shall dismiss or discipline an  
42 employee by reason of mobilization under this Act. An employee who violates this  
43 Section shall be subject to a fine of up to one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00)  
44 or imprisonment of not more than two (2) years, or both.

45 **SEC. 14. Maximum Penalties.** – For acts already penalized under existing laws  
46 such as corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment, and other abuses committed by  
47 persons authorized to administer Basic Training and other advanced training, and

1 mobilization of the Corps who, for such purposes, shall all be deemed public officers,  
2 the maximum penalties imposable under existing laws shall be imposed.

3 **SEC. 15. *Appropriation.*** – An initial funding of fifty million pesos  
4 (P50,000,000.00) charged against the current year’s appropriation from the  
5 Presidential Social Fund shall be allocated to carry out the provisions of this Act.  
6 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the General  
7 Appropriations Act.

8 **SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations,  
9 or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
10 hereby 20 repealed or modified accordingly.

11 **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared  
12 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall  
13 23 remain in force and effect.

14 **SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following  
15 the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of  
16 general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*