

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



'22 JUL -7 P 6 :02

SENATE
S.B. No. 236

RECEIVED BY: _____

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR ROBINHOOD PADILLA

**AN ACT
REINSTATING THE MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS
(ROTC) PROGRAM IN ALL UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE OR DIPLOMA
PROGRAMS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TERTIARY-LEVEL EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In its Declaration of Principles and State Policies, the 1987 Constitution mandated the Government to serve and protect the people. Corollary to this, 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.

The Constitution likewise recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and seeks to protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. The State has the duty to inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. In fact, no less than Vice President Sara Duterte said, "*What we need right now is a new generation [of youths], who are disciplined and have love for the country, Filipino youths who will help the government in forging and fortifying peace and progress in our country.*"

By virtue of these policies, Republic Act No. 7077 otherwise known as the "*Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservists Act*" mandated military training for students enrolled in colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning and decreed the establishment of Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) units for the purpose of producing enlisted and officer reservists. Unfortunately, the subsequent passing of the Republic Act No. 9163 otherwise known as the "National Service

Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001" made ROTC optional and voluntary. As a result, enrollment of students in said ROTC program steadily declined.

This bill seeks to reinstate the ROTC program as a mandatory requirement in the curriculum of all undergraduate degree or diploma programs in public and private tertiary-level education institutions in the country. The restoration of the ROTC program will arm our youth with the competence and readiness required in serving our country to ensure the security of the State and our people.

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



ROBINHOOD PADILLA

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "*Mandatory Reserve*
2 *Officers' Training Corps Act*".
3

4 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is the policy of the State to serve and
5 protect the people and to inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and
6 encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. It is mandated by the
7 Constitution that the government may call upon the people to defend the State and,
8 in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by
9 law, to render personal, military, or civil service.
10

11 **Section 3. Coverage.** The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to all
12 students enrolled in any undergraduate degree or diploma programs in public and
13 private tertiary-level educational institutions in the country.
14

15 **Section 4. Duty to Enlist as Reserve of the Armed Forces of the**
16 ***Philippines (AFP).*** All Filipino students enrolled in any undergraduate degree or
17 diploma programs in public and private tertiary-level educational institutions shall
18 complete Basic Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program for purposes of
19 enlistment in the AFP as prescribed in this Act.
20

21 **Section 5. ROTC Program.** A mandatory ROTC Program is hereby reinstated
22 as a curriculum instruction for students to be enlisted as reserve or officers of the AFP
23 upon completion of the program. It shall be mandatory for all students to enlist as a
24 reserve of the AFP by completing a Basic ROTC Program which shall not exceed two

1 (2) academic years. Upon completion of the basic program, the enlisted reserve may,
2 at his or her discretion, enlist as reserve officer upon completion of an Advance ROTC
3 Program which shall not exceed two (2) academic years.

4
5 **Section 6. Students Exempted from Duty to Enlist.** The following
6 students are exempted from the coverage of the ROTC Program:

- 7
8 1. Those who are physically or mentally unfit to render military service as certified
9 by a military medical officer;
10 2. Persons with disability;
11 3. Those convicted by final judgment of criminal offenses involving moral
12 turpitude;
13 4. Those whose religious beliefs proscribe any aspect of military or national service
14 such as, but not limited to, using firearms and other deadly weapons, training
15 in warfare tactics and combat operations, or rendering service in military and
16 other similar institutions; and
17 5. Those who have undergone similar military training from a previous
18 undergraduate degree or diploma program.

19
20 The students with any of the circumstances enumerated above, with the
21 exception of item (5), shall undergo a Special National Service Training (SNST)
22 Program as provided in Section 11 of this Act.

23
24 **Section 7. Basic ROTC Program.** The Basic ROTC Program shall have the
25 following components:

- 26
27 1. Training on External and Territorial Defense;
28 2. Training on Internal Security, Peace and Order, and Public Safety;
29 3. Training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; and
30 4. Training on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

31
32 **Section 8. Advanced ROTC Program.** An Advanced ROTC Program shall
33 include leadership and management training to effectively administer the Basic ROTC
34 Program. Students enrolled in the Advanced ROTC Program shall comprise the Officer
35 Corps of their respective ROTC Units and shall assist the Department of National
36 Defense (DND) in the management and conduct of the ROTC Program within their
37 respective educational institutions.

38
39 The implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act may provide additional
40 curriculum and instructions in the Basic and Advance ROTC programs.

41
42 **Section 9. Establishment of ROTC Units.** An ROTC Unit shall be established
43 and maintained in all public and private tertiary level educational institutions with the
44 primary duty of implementing the Basic and Advanced ROTC Program, and the Special
45 National Service Training Program as provided for in this Act: Provided, That the DND
46 shall prescribe the minimum organization and staffing requirements of ROTC Units in
47 accordance with Sections 41 and 42 of Republic Act No. 7077, or the "*Citizen Armed*
48 *Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act.*"

1 **Section 10. *Incentive for Advanced ROTC Program.*** A student accepted
2 in the Advanced ROTC Program is entitled to the benefits provided in Sections 42 and
3 43 of Republic Act No. 7077 in terms of training, uniforms and supplies, and
4 scholarship incentive.
5

6 **Section 11. *SNST Program.*** The SNST Program is hereby established as
7 substitute program for students who are exempted from mandatory Basic ROTC
8 Program which shall include the following components:
9

- 10 1. Literacy Training Service Program;
- 11 2. Civic Welfare Training Service Program;
- 12 3. Emergency Life Support Training Service Program;
- 13 4. Search and Rescue Training Program; and
- 14 5. Community Service for Drug Rehabilitation.

15
16 The IRR of this Act may provide additional curriculum and instructions of the
17 SNST program.
18

19 **Section 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The DND, in
20 coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), along with other
21 government agencies concerned, and in consultation with tertiary-level educational
22 associations, shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations within thirty
23 (30) days upon the effectivity of this Act.
24

25 **Section 13. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, orders, rules and
26 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are
27 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
28

29 **Section 14. *Separability Clause.*** If, for any reason, any provision of this Act
30 or any part thereof shall be held unconstitutional and invalid, the other parts or
31 provisions of this Act, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and
32 effect.
33

34 **Section 15. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
35 after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers
36 of general circulation.

Approved,