

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



'22 JUL 27 P 4 :50

SENATE
S. B. No. 913

RECEIVED 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

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. And over the years, our brave men and women serving in the Army, Air Force, and Navy have lived by and stood firm in their mandate of "protecting the people, and securing the State."

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 only be in terms of equipment, facilities, and skills alone. This must also be accompanied by improved benefits for our military personnel and - more importantly - their families. As the members of the AFP continuously risk their lives to secure a better future for all, it must also be the primary concern of the State to grant adequate remuneration and benefits for them.

In accordance with Constitutional provisions, this measure provides the necessary framework of institutionalizing benefits for military dependents which emphasizes on increasing benefits on the dependents for health, housing, education, among others. In addition, the proposed bill also seeks to create Military Dependents

Welfare Office which shall be the main coordinating body for all issues and concerns of military dependents.

While no amount of money can compare to the bravery of Filipinos who have volunteered to fight for the country, it must be a priority of the government to explicitly relay our tremendous gratitude to them through the institutionalization of added benefits.

Therefore, expeditious passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SONNY ANGARA', written in a cursive style.

SONNY ANGARA

A small, handwritten mark or signature element located below the printed name.

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

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

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

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

11 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For purposes of this Act, the following shall
12 mean:

13 a) *Military Dependent* refers to the wife, children and other persons dependent
14 on the military personnel for chief support, duly registered with the Moral and
15 Welfare Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel J1 of the
16 Armed Forces of the Philippines.

1 b) *AFP Military Personnel* shall include all active and incapacitated members of
2 the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

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

Educational level	Amount of Support (Per year)	Duration
College	P50,000.00	4/5 years
Vocational	P30,000.00	2 years
Secondary	P30,000.00	6 years
Elementary	P20,000.00	6 years

7
8

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

- 12 a) Free Hospitalization, inclusive of Professional Services, Medicines, and Medical
13 Supplies;
14 b) Dispensary or Outpatient Services;
15 c) Ambulance Services; and
16 d) Free Dental Services.

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

22 **SEC. 7. Commissary Benefits.** – All military dependents shall be entitled to
23 the benefit/privilege of purchasing tax-exempt merchandise from any of the AFP CES
24 units either cash or salary check.

25 **SEC. 8. Other Benefits and Privileges.** – Military dependents shall
26 continue to receive all other existing benefits and privileges.

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

6 **SEC. 10. *Functions of the Office.*** – The Office shall have the powers and
7 functions:

- 8 a) To act as coordinating body for all issues and concerns of military
9 dependents;
- 10 b) To formulate and institutionalize the necessary system and mechanism to
11 ensure the effective and responsive delivery of benefits for military
12 dependents;
- 13 c) To facilitate and ensure the swift release of benefits to the Military
14 Dependents;
- 15 d) To review existing benefits and recommend the necessary improvements to
16 ensure better benefits for Military Dependents; and
- 17 e) To annually recommend to the Department of National Defense (DND)
18 appropriations for military dependent's benefits under the budget of the
19 Armed Forces of the Philippines.

20 **SEC. 11. *Coordination with Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings***
21 ***and Loans, Associations Incorporated (AFPSLAI) and the Armed Forces of***
22 ***the Philippines Retirement Separation Benefit System (AFPRSBS).*** – The
23 Military Dependents' benefits office shall coordinate with the AFPSLAI and AFPRSBS
24 to facilitate and ensure the release of benefits for military dependents.

25 **SEC. 12. *Appropriations.*** – The DND shall, every year allocate a portion of
26 their annual budget for the support of this Act.

27 **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The DND shall
28 promulgate the Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective implementation of
29 this Act.

30 **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is
31 subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are
32 not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

1 **SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees,
2 executive orders, presidential proclamations, issuances, rules and regulations, or
3 parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this
4 Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

5 **SEC. 16. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
6 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,