

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



22 NOV 23 P 6:19

SENATE

S. No. 1540

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT

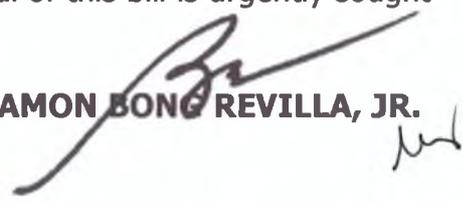
GRANTING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE DEPENDENTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR) WHO ARE KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY OR BY REASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR POSITION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2, Section 5 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the maintenance of peace and order is essential for the enjoyment by all people of the blessings of democracy. However, maintaining peace and order is not without risk to those who enforce it, particularly the members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). Recognizing the considerable harm faced by the uniformed personnel in the performance of their duties, this bill aims to institutionalize educational benefits to the surviving children of policemen who are killed or were permanently incapacitated in the line of their duty.

The members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) should be given extra consideration, especially to the needs of their family, should something happen to them. The risks inherent in the performance of their duties should not put the welfare of their families to chance. Government must provide for the family expenses of these government personnel in case of necessity.

In recognition of the risk of limb or life of the uniformed personnel in the performance of their duty, the immediate approval of this bill is urgently sought

RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR. 

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AN ACT
GRANTING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE
DEPENDENTS OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
PHILIPPINES (AFP), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF
FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY
(BJMP), NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), PHILIPPINE DRUG
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) AND
BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR) WHO ARE KILLED OR PERMANENTLY
INCAPACITATED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY OR BY
REASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR POSITION

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Uniformed Personnel*
2 *Educational Assistance and Benefits Act.*"

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy* - It is hereby declared policy of the State to
4 recognize the vital role of the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP),
5 Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail
6 Management and Penology (BJMP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine
7 Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Bureau of
8 Corrections (BuCor) in the maintenance of peace and public order in our country and
9 to ensure that the dependents of those who are killed in action or are permanently
10 incapacitated while in the performance of their duty or by reason of their office or
11 position are provided with educational assistance and benefits.

12 Sec. 3. *Definition of Term.* -

1 Permanent Incapacity shall refer to physical or mental ill-health or infirmity
2 which is: (i) permanent, (ii) prevents a member from pursuing his normal employment,
3 and (iii) seriously impairs his earning capacity.

4 *Sec. 4. Grant of Educational Assistance and Benefits.* - All the surviving children
5 of the members of the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor who are
6 killed or permanently incapacitated while in the performance of their duty or by reason
7 of their office or position shall automatically and without qualification be extended full
8 education grant from basic education to tertiary level whether baccalaureate, formal
9 or non-formal education or training program in a non-exclusive school or institution.
10 The education grant privilege shall include, but shall not be limited to, payment of
11 tuition and miscellaneous fees, allowance for books and school supplies and allowance
12 for food and transportation.

13 *Sec. 5. Uniformed Personnel Educational Grant Board.* - The Uniformed
14 Personnel Educational Grant Board (UPEGB) shall be an additional function to The
15 Commission on Higher Education - Unified Student Financial Assistance System for
16 Tertiary Education (CHED-UniFAST) Board. In particular, the CHED-UniFAST Board, in
17 coordination with the head of agencies of AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and
18 BuCor, shall be formally organized as the UPEGB within thirty (30) days from the
19 effectivity of this Act It shall manage and administer an inter-agency educational
20 assistance fund.

21 The UPEGB shall serve as the policy making body vested with the authority to
22 come-up with the mechanics, scope and limitations, and requirements for educational
23 grant program pursuant to the objectives of this Act.

24 The CHED-Secretariat shall be responsible to implement the screening,
25 admission, disqualification and other education grant-related availment processes of
26 the educational grant, in accordance with the guidelines to be prescribed by the
27 UPEGB.

28 *Sec. 6. Authority to Accept Donations; Tax Exemption.* - The UPEGB shall have
29 the authority to accept donations, contributions, grants in cash or in kind, from
30 appropriate sources, domestic or foreign. Said donations shall be used exclusively to
31 complement the funding requirements of the educational grants subject to the existing
32 government accounting and auditing rules and regulations; *Provided,* That any

1 donation, contribution or financial aid which may be made to the Board shall be
2 exempt from taxes of any kind and shall constitute allowable deductions in full from
3 the income of the donors, contributors or givers for income tax purposes. Furthermore,
4 the Board is authorized to invest as much of the idle funds as may be necessary for
5 the purpose of generating additional revenue for the benefit of the program.

6 *Sec. 7. Appropriation.* - The amount necessary to fund the educational
7 assistance and benefits specified above shall be included in the respective annual
8 budgets of the CHED-UniFAST and Department of Education to be enacted as part of
9 the annual General Appropriations Act; Provided, That any deficiencies in the financial
10 requirements may be taken from savings on the personal services of the AFP, PNP,
11 BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor and the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits
12 Funds (MPBF); *Provided*, further. That the UPEGB may, consistent with Sec. 5 of this
13 Act, identify, develop and/or generate additional sources of funds to further support
14 this program.

15 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The UPEGB herein established
16 shall formulate and issue, within sixty (60) days from its creation, the necessary rules
17 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

18 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held illegal, invalid
19 or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected
20 shall remain in full force and effect.

21 *Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.* - Presidential Decree No. 577 is hereby repealed.
22 RA 6963 and all other laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters
23 of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulation or parts thereof which are
24 contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
25 modified or amended accordingly.

26 *Sec. 11. Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
27 complete publication either in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of
28 general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,