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Prepared by the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation and the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture with Senators Sotto III, Trillanes IV and Pia Cayetano as authors

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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 Representatives 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 of 2015*".

3           **SECTION 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 Drug  
7 Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Bureau of Corrections  
8 (BuCor) in the maintenance of peace and public order in our country and to ensure that the  
9 dependents of those who are killed in action or are permanently incapacitated while in the

1 performance of their duty or by reason of their office or position are provided with  
2 educational assistance and benefits.

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

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

14         **SECTION 5. *Uniformed Personnel Scholarship Board.*** - The scholarship funds  
15 collected hereunder shall be managed and administered by an inter-agency scholarship board  
16 to be known as the Uniformed Personnel Scholarship Board, which shall be created and  
17 formally organized within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act. The Board shall be  
18 composed of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government and  
19 Secretary of the Department of National Defense as Co-chairmen and one (1) member each to  
20 represent the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor.

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

1 implement the screening, admission, disqualification and other scholarship-related availment  
2 processes to the respective scholarship bodies of the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA,  
3 PCG and BuCor, in accordance with the guidelines to be prescribed by the Board.

4         **SECTION 6.** *Authority to accept donations; Tax exemption.* - The Board shall have  
5 the authority to accept donations, contributions, grants in cash or in kind, from appropriate  
6 sources, domestic or foreign. Said donations shall be used exclusively to complement the  
7 funding requirements of the scholarship program subject to the existing government  
8 accounting and auditing rules and regulations; *Provided,* That any donation, contribution or  
9 financial aid which may be made to the Board shall be exempt from taxes of any kind and  
10 shall constitute allowable deductions in full from the income of the donors, contributors or  
11 givers for income tax purposes. Furthermore, the Board is authorized to invest so much of the  
12 idle funds as may be necessary for the purpose of generating additional revenue for the  
13 benefit of the scholarship program.

14         **SECTION 7.** *Appropriation.* - The amount necessary to fund the educational  
15 assistance and benefits specified above shall be included in the respective annual budgets of  
16 the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor to be enacted as part of the annual  
17 General Appropriations Act; *Provided,* That any deficiencies in the financial requirements  
18 may be taken from savings on the personal services of the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI,  
19 PDEA, PCG and BuCor and the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Funds (MPBF); *Provided,*  
20 *further,* That the Uniformed Personnel Scholarship Board may, consistent with Sec. 5 of this  
21 Act, identify, develop and/or generate additional sources of funds to further support this  
22 scholarship program.

1           **SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Uniformed Personnel  
2 Scholarship Board herein created shall formulate and issue, within sixty (60) days from its  
3 creation, the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

4           **SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part hereof is held illegal,  
5 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected  
6 shall remain valid and subsisting.

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

13           **SECTION 11. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
14 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the country or in  
15 the Official Gazette.

16 *Approved,*