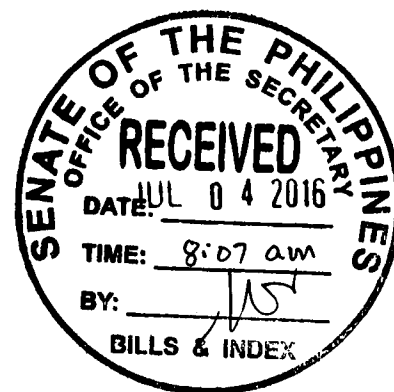


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }
First Regular Session }



SENATE
S.B. No. 219

Introduced by SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

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 THEm DUTY OR BY REASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR
POSITION

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Government service ordinarily does not involve risk to one's life and limb. There is, however a certain type of government service where putting one's life on the line is a matter of course. This is the situation of soldiers, policemen, fire fighters and generally those who serve and protect the general public. Specifically these are 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). They should be given extra care and

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 family expenses of these government personnel in case of necessity.

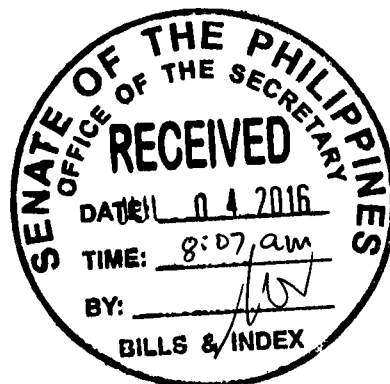
This measure, which intends to provide educational scholarships to the surviving children or beneficiaries of such government personnel, will be the least we can do for the sacrifices of our fallen heroes.

I urge my colleagues to support the immediate passage of this bill to assure these protectors of the state and the people perform their duties with peace of mind for the welfare of their families.



VICENTE C. SOTTO III

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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 "*Uniformed*
2 *Personnel Educational Assistance and Benefits Act of 2016.*"

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

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

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

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

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

26 The Board shall serve as the policy making body vested with the
27 authority to come-up with the mechanics, scope and limitations, and
28 requirements for scholarship program pursuant to the objectives of this Act.
29 The Board shall, however, delegate the responsibility to implement the
30 screening, admission, disqualification and other scholarship-related
31 availment processes to the respective scholarship bodies of the AFP, PNP,

1 BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor, in accordance with the guidelines
2 to be prescribed by the Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,