


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
FIRST REGULAR SESSION)



SENATE
Office of the Secretary

'16 SEP -8 P1:54

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE BILL NO. 1131

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
RE-INSTITUTING RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) AS
A MANDATORY COURSE FOR TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill proposes the re-institution of the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Program for all tertiary level male students currently enrolled in any public or private educational institutions.

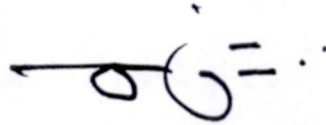
ROTC Program consists of basic military training, which includes, among others, subject on moral virtues, patriotism, discipline, support and adherence to the Constitution, and respect for the right of civilians. Contrary to the popular beliefs, reservist, who completed military training under ROTC Programs, are not only called upon in the event of war, invasion or rebellion. They are also mandated to lend assistance in relief and rescue during disaster or calamities, in socioeconomic development and in the operation and maintenance of essential government or private utilities in the furtherance of overall mission.

Since the enactment of Republic Act No. 9163 otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001", enrollment in ROTC Programs declined dramatically. Consequently, the number of reservist that can fulfill the Citizen Armed Force mission' reduced as well. Unfortunately, Filipinos' patriotism and discipline became astray.

Considering the adverse effect of the lifting of the mandatory character of ROTC programs to college students, there is a need to revive its former

character. The mandatory imposition of ROTC Programs will increase the number of reservist that may be called upon in times of need of the country. Moreover, it will help in personal development of citizens. No less than the President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared that, military training instills discipline and patriotism among the youth & promote spirit of love of country".

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Victor G. Ejercito'. The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke on the left and a circular flourish on the right.

JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



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FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "ROTC Act of 2016".

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3 SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* The 1987 Constitution provides that the
4 Government may call upon the people to defend the State, and, in the
5 fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by
6 law, to render personal, military or civil service.

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8 In the same wise, the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in
9 nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual,
10 intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism
11 and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

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13 SEC. 3. *Reinstitution of ROTC as a Mandatory Course for Tertiary Level Male*
14 *Students.* The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) course shall be
15 mandatory for all male students of any baccalaureate degree course or at least
16 two (2)-year technical vocational courses in public and private educational
17 institutions. On the other hand, female students shall be required to complete
18 any of the National Service Training Program components under Section 4 of
19 Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training
20 Program (NSTP) Act of 2001".

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SEC. 4. *Revival of Section 39 of Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the "Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act".* Section 39 of Republic Act No. 7077 as amended by Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001" ... is hereby revived to read as follows:

"SEC. 39. Establishment of ROTC Units in Schools. - At such colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning that request for the conduct of military training in their institutions, there shall be established and maintained Reserve Officers' Training Corps units as the Secretary of National Defense may approve, which shall conduct military training for the students of such institutions for the purpose of producing enlisted and officer reservists. The program of instruction shall be prescribed by the Secretary of National Defense and may include instruction to prepare female students for military service: provided, that, such course of instruction shall not exceed two (2) academic years in the case of enlisted reservists, and four (4) academic years in the case of officer reservists which shall include as necessary summer or probationary training of not more than sixty (60) consecutive days, The first two (2) years ROTC training, which is mandatory, shall hereafter be referred to as basic ROTC while the second (2) years after said basic ROTC, which is voluntary, shall hereafter be referred to as advance ROTC. The allocation of ROTC units to the various majors services of the AFP shall conform to the projected manpower needs of their respective reserve components."

SEC. 5. *Exemptions to the mandatory ROTC course.* The following male students are exempted from the application of the mandatory ROTC course:

- a. Ecclesiastics regularly ordained and serving as a member of the clergy and seminary students of a recognized church or sect;
- b. Those who are physically or mentally unfit as certified by any government physicians or by AFP medical officer;
- c. Those who may be exempted for valid reasons by appropriate and competent authority;
- d. Those who are undergoing similar military training;
- e. Those who are active members of the AFP, PNP or other law enforcement agency;
- f. Such others as may hereafter be exempted by law.

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SEC. 6. *Applicability.* This Act shall apply in the school year following its approval. Students currently enrolled in any of the alternative programs for the ROTC as mandated by Republic Act No. 9163 shall be allowed to continue and complete the program.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules.* The DND, CHED and TESDA shall have the joint responsibility for the adoption of the implementing rules of this Act within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

These three (3) agencies shall consult with other concerned government agencies, the PASUC and COCOPEA, NGOs and recognized student organizations in drafting the implementing rules.

SEC. 8. *Amendatory Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed and modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,