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SENATE

S. No. **1463**

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(In Substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 219, 285 and 1123)

Prepared Jointly by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means and Finance with Senators Vicente C. Sotto, III, Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV, Grace Poe, Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero, Sonny Angara and Loren B. Legarda as authors

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 and Law*
2 *Enforcement Personnel Educational Assistance and Benefits Act of 2017*”.

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

13
14 **SECTION 3. Permanent incapacity; Definition.** – Permanent Incapacity shall refer
15 to physical or mental ill-health or infirmity which is: (i) permanent, (ii) prevents a member
16 from pursuing his or her normal employment, and (iii) seriously impairs his or her earning
17 capacity.

18
19 **SECTION 4. Grant of Educational Assistance and Benefits.** – All the surviving
20 children of the members of the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor who
21 are killed or permanently incapacitated while in the performance of their duty or by reason of
22 their office or position shall automatically and without qualification be extended full

1 scholarship from kindergarten to tertiary level whether baccalaureate, formal or non-formal
2 education or training program in a non-exclusive school or institution; Provided, that the
3 surviving spouse if he or she so desires may also avail of the benefit; Provided further, that, if
4 the deceased or disabled personnel is single, his or her qualified dependent siblings may also
5 avail of this benefit. The scholarship privilege shall include, but shall not be limited to,
6 payment of tuition and miscellaneous fees, allowance for books and school supplies and
7 allowance for food and transportation.

8 **SECTION 5. *Uniformed and Law Enforcement Personnel Scholarship Board.*** –

9 The scholarship funds collected hereunder shall be managed and administered in accordance
10 with the policies formulated by an inter-agency scholarship board to be known as the
11 Uniformed and Law Enforcement Personnel Scholarship Board, which shall be created and
12 formally organized within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act. The Board shall be
13 composed of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the
14 Secretary of Justice, the Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of the Department of
15 National Defense, or their alternatives, as Co-chairmen and one (1) member each to represent
16 the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor.

17
18 The Board shall serve as the policy making body vested with the authority to come-up
19 with the mechanics, scope and limitations, and requirements for scholarship program
20 pursuant to the objectives of this Act. The Board shall, however, delegate the responsibility to
21 implement the screening, admission, qualification, disqualification and other scholarship-
22 related availment processes to the respective scholarship bodies of the AFP, PNP, BFP,
23 BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor, in accordance with the guidelines to be prescribed by
24 the Board. If the agency concerned does not have an existing scholarship board or body, the
25 head of agency is authorized to create such board or body or to delegate its function to an
26 existing bureau, division or office which could concurrently perform such functions.

27
28 **SECTION 6. *Authority to accept donations; Tax Exemption.*** – The Uniformed and
29 Law Enforcement Scholarship Board and the respective board or bodies of the concerned
30 agencies shall have the authority to accept donations, contributions, grants in cash or in kind,
31 from appropriate sources, domestic or foreign. Said donations shall be used exclusively to
32 complement the funding requirements of the scholarship program subject to the existing
33 government accounting and auditing rules and regulations; Provided, That any donation,
34 contribution or financial aid which may be made to the Board and to respective board or
35 bodies of the concerned agencies shall be exempt from taxes of any kind and shall constitute
36 allowable deductions in full from the income of the donors, contributors or givers for income
37 tax purposes. Furthermore, the Board and to the respective board or bodies of the concerned
38 agencies are authorized to invest so much of the idle funds as may be necessary for the
39 purpose of generating additional revenue for the benefit of the scholarship program subject to
40 the guidelines as may be prescribed by the board.

41
42 **SECTION 7. *Funding of Educational Assistance and Benefits.*** – The amounts
43 necessary to fund the educational assistance and benefits for the surviving children of the
44 deceased or permanently incapacitated Uniformed and Law Enforcement Personnel provided
45 under this Act shall be separately sourced and utilized, as follows:

- 46
47 A. For PNP, license fees collected from the PNP firearms, and explosive office;
48 B. For AFP, prevailing funds exclusively allocated for scholarship including
49 applicable grants and donations and other service income;

- 1 C. For BFP, subsidy income from the National Government;
2 D. For PCG, collection from permits and licenses fees, fines, and penalties,
3 service income, and other general income; and
4 E. For NBI, income from government services, particularly new clearance fees,
5 including miscellaneous income.
6

7 For PDEA, BJMP and BuCor, the amounts necessary for the educational assistance
8 and benefits shall be included in their respective budgets under the annual General
9 Appropriation Act.
10

11 The concerned agencies may also determine or generate additional sources of funds
12 for the continuity of their scholarship assistance programs under this Act.
13

14 **SECTION 8. Appropriations.** – Any shortfall in the amount necessary to fund the
15 educational assistance and benefits specified above shall be included in the respective annual
16 budgets of the AFP, PNP, BFP, NBI, and PCG to be enacted as part of the annual General
17 Appropriations Act; Provided, That any deficiencies in the financial requirements may
18 likewise 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.
23

24 **SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Uniformed and Law
25 Enforcement Personnel Scholarship Board herein created shall promulgate, formulate and
26 issue, within sixty (60) days from its creation, the necessary implementing rules and
27 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
28

29 **SECTION 10. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part this Act is held illegal,
30 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected
31 shall remain valid and subsisting.
32

33 **SECTION 11. Repealing Clause.** – Presidential Decree No. 577, RA 6963, and all
34 other laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction,
35 administrative orders, rules and regulation or parts thereof which are contrary to or
36 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended
37 accordingly.
38

39 **SECTION 12. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
40 its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the country or
in the Official Gazette, whichever comes first.

Approved,