



Senate

Office of the Secretary

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

'19 JUL -8 P12 :03

RECEIVED

SENATE
SB No. 243

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 THEIR 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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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
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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*
2 *Personnel Educational Assistance and Benefits Act.*"

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

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

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

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

24 The Board shall serve as the policy making body vested with the
25 authority to come-up with the mechanics, scope and limitations, and
26 requirements for scholarship program pursuant to the objectives of this Act.
27 The Board shall, however, delegate the responsibility to implement the
28 screening, admission, disqualification and other scholarship-related
29 availment processes to the respective scholarship bodies of the AFP, PNP,
30 BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor, in accordance with the guidelines
31 to be prescribed by the Board.

32 SECTION 6. **Authority to accept donations; Tax exemption.** - The
33 Board shall have the authority to accept donations, contributions, grants in

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

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,