

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES *First Regular Session*

22 AUG 31 A8:30

SENATE

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S. No. <u>1235</u>

Introduced by SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR EJERCITO

AN ACT

INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE, ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that:

"The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service."

As also stated under Section 13 of the same article that:

"The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs."

The Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) was founded in the country in 1912. It became mandatory after the effectivity of the Commonwealth Act 1 or the National Defense Act of 1935 by then President Manuel Quezon. After the World War II, the ROTC units were "disbanded and demobilized". However, in 1967, President Ferdinand Marcos, Sr. issued Executive Order 59 which restored the ROTC and making it mandatory. After the issues of corruption, hazing, among others, surrounding the

ROTC, it was made optional under Republic Act (RA) No. 9163 or the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001.

With the enactment of RA No. 9163, the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Program became one of the components of the National Service Training Program (NSTP), together with Literacy Training Service (LTS) and Civic Welfare Training Service (CWTS). As the result of this, the enrollees to the ROTC dramatically declined. According to the Department of National Defense, there were around 800,000 enrollees every year when ROTC Program was mandatory. According to the records, an estimate of only 14% of all NSTP graduates have undergone the ROTC Program. Consequently, the number of reservists that fulfill the Citizen Armed Force mission has reduced. As of July 2018, there are only 398,988 total Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Force. ¹

As accurately stated in the case of People vs. Tranquilino Lagman GR No. 45892. July 13, 1938 : "To leave the organization of an army to the will of the citizens would be to make this duty of the Government excusable should there be no sufficient men who volunteer to enlist therein."

This bill seeks to establish the Citizen Service Training Course (CSTC), wherein a Basic Citizen Service Training Course (CSTC) shall be mandatory component in the curriculum of all tertiary-level male and female students enrolled in baccalaureate degree and all technical vocational courses. Under this bill, there will also be a Special CSTC for students with disabilities, those whose beliefs prohibit the use of firearms in rendering service to the country, and those who have been convicted by final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude. Moreover, the measure also include the institutionalization of an Advance CSTC which shall consist of one hundred twenty eight (128) hours of lecture and practical training in external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reductions and management. In line with these, a Citizen Service Corps will be established which shall be composed

¹ https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/opinion/2022/02/09/2159594/mandatory-military-service

of all the graduates of the CSTC, who may be mobilized to assist the national government and local government units in relation to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

This measure aims not only to ensure that the youth is instilled with a sense of patriotism, civic responsibility and discipline, but also to make the youth our partners in nation building while being trained and organized for the noble purpose of serving the country.

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

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JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO



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INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE, ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

ARTICLE I Title

1	See	ction 1. <i>Short Title.</i> – This Act shall be known as the "Citizen Service Act" .
2		ARTICLE II
3		Declaration of Policy
4	Se	c. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State:
5	a.	To institutionalize the vital role of the youth in nation-building, promote and
6		protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being; to
7		inculcate in them patriotism and nationalism; and to encourage their
8		involvement in public and civic affairs;
9	b.	To constitute the youth into a major component of the citizen reserve
10		envisioned in the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, which
11		shall undergo training and may be called upon to defend the State and to
12		render personal military or civil service under conditions provided by law;
13		and
14	с.	To train, equip and organize the youth, within the current frameworks of
15		national and territorial defense, law enforcement and peace and order and

national disaster risk reduction and management, to prepare them for rapid
 mobilization at the soonest possible time in order to address national and/or
 local contingencies which may require manpower beyond the capabilities of
 existing national government agencies or local government units.

ARTICLE III

Institution of Citizen Service Training Course

Sec. 3. *Basic Citizen Service Training Course.* – There is hereby instituted a
Basic Citizen Service Training Course (Basic CSTC) which shall form part of the
curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and all technical vocational courses
(which may be completed in at least two (2) years).

11 The Basic CSTC shall have a duration of at least four (4) semesters over two 12 (2) school years, unless otherwise allowed by the Citizen Service Training Board. 13 Except for justifiable causes, the Basic CSTC must be completed, as far as practicable, 14 within the first two (2) years of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical 15 vocational courses.

16 The Basic CSTC is hereby declared as a requisite for graduation in the said 17 courses.

Sec. 4. *Coverage.* – All tertiary-level, male and female, enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses (which may be completed in a t least two (2) years in all public and private colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions shall be required to undergo the Basic CSTC.

Sec. 5. *Special CSTC for Students under Specific Circumstances.* – There shall be no exemptions from the Basic CSTC. However, the Citizen Service Mobilization Commission shall prescribe Special CSTC to address the peculiar needs and circumstances of students under the following circumstances:

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Those who are classified and officially registered as persons with disabilities;

- b. Those whose religious beliefs prohibit the use of firearms in rendering
 service to the country; and
- c. Those who have been convicted by final judgement of crimes involving
 moral turpitude;

Provided, That foreign citizens enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or
 technical vocational courses where CSTC is required shall also undergo a Special CSTC

prescribed by the Citizen Service Mobilization Commission that would deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Philippines, its people, society, culture and government, and harness their potential as bridges to improve their respective countries' ties with the Philippines.

5 Sec. 6. Advance CSTC. - There is also hereby instituted an Advance CSTC, 6 except those who have been convicted by final judgement of crimes involving moral turpitude; and who have successfully finished a one-semester officer qualifying course 7 8 within the first two (2) years of their baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses. The officer qualifying course shall include leadership and 9 management training, which will equip the graduates thereof to themselves administer 10 the Basic CSTC; shall be completed in one (1) semester; and shall consist of at least 11 one hundred and twenty-eight (128) hours of lecture, practical training and field 12 exercises in external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, 13 14 and disaster risk reduction and management.

15 It shall be mandatory for all public and private colleges, universities and similar 16 learning institutions offering baccalaureate degree courses to offer the Advance CSTC 17 in all their campuses, which shall have a duration of at least eight (8) semesters over 18 four (4) school years, unless otherwise allowed by the Citizen Service Training Board. 19 However, enrollment thereunder shall be voluntary. Graduates of the Advance CSTC 20 shall be posted to leadership roles in the Citizen Service Corps established herein.

Sec. 7. *Preparation CSTC.* – There is further hereby instituted a Preparatory 21 CSTC which shall be administered and implemented by the Department of Education 22 (DepEd) to all students, male and female, enrolled in Grades 11 and 12 in all public 23 learning institutions. The Preparatory CSTC shall be 24 and private an 25 introductory/orientation course to the Basic CSTC and is hereby declared a requirement for enrollment in all baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational 26 courses (which may be completed in at least two (2) years) in all public and private 27 colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions. 28

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ARTICLE IV Establishment of the Citizen Service Corps

Sec.8. *Citizen Service Corps.* – There is hereby established a Citizen Service Corps (Corps) which shall be composed of all the graduates of CSTC and may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and the local government units in their functions related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

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Creation of the Citizen Service Mobilization Commission

ARTICLE V

9 Sec. 9. Citizen Service Mobilization Commission. - There is hereby created a Citizen Service Mobilization Commission (Commission), which shall oversee the CSTC 10 and the Corps, and implement the objectives and purposes of this Act. The President 11 shall appoint the Chairperson and the four (4) Commissioners as provided herein 12 within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. The Commission must organize 13 14 itself in accordance with the provision of this Act withing sixty (60) days from the 15 appointment of all its members. The Commission shall be an attached agency of the Office of the President. 16

17 The Commission shall ensure the full implementation of this Act within one (1)18 year from the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 10. Composition of the Commission. - The Commission shall be composed 19 20 of a Chairperson and four (4) Commissioners, namely, the Commissioner for External and Territorial Defense, the Commissioner for Internal Security and Peace and Order, 21 the Commissioner for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, and the 22 Commissioner for Educational Institutions. The Secretary of the Department of 23 National Defense (DND), the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local 24 25 Government (DILG), the Chairperson of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED), and the Director General of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority 26 (TESDA), or their duly-authorized representatives with a rank of at least Assistant 27 Secretary for the DND and the DILG, Commissioner for the CHED, or Board Member 28 for the TESDA, shall be ex-officio members of the Commission. 29

The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be citizens and residents of the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of good moral character, or recognized probity and independence, and, through their training, experience, and

education, must have distinguished themselves as best-suited to discharge the duties
of their offices. They must not have been candidates for any elective national or local
offices in the immediately preceding elections, whether regular or special. The
Chairperson and the Commissioners, who shall have the rank equivalent of cabinet
secretary and undersecretary, respectively, shall be appointed by the President.

6 Sec. 11. *Quorum.* – Five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute a 7 quorum and the affirmative vote of at least a majority of those present, there being a 8 quorum, shall be necessary for the adoption of any rule, ruling, order, resolution, 9 decision, or other acts of the Commission; Provided, That the affirmative vote of at 10 least five (5) members of the Commission shall be necessary for the exercise of the 11 powers and functions of the Commission under Section 13(a),(d),(f), (j), and (k), as 12 well as those under Section 18, paragraph 4, Section 27, and Section 29.

13 Sec. 12. *Term of Office.* - The term of office of the Chairperson and the 14 Commissioners shall be four (4) years, subject to reappointment: *Provided,* That no 15 person shall serve as Chairperson or Commissioner for more that two (2) consecutive 16 terms.

Of those first appointed, the Chairperson and the two (2) Commissioners first to be appointed shall hold office for four (4) years, while the two (2) Commissioners last to be appointed shall hold office for two (2) years. Appointment to any vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

- Sec. 13. *Powers of the Commission.* The Commission shall have the following
 powers:
- a. Design, prescribe and/or approve the programs of instruction for the CSTC,
 including special courses for students under specific circumstances;
- b. Ensure the proper administration of the CSTC;
- 26 c. Exercise supervision and control over all agencies, offices and persons,
 27 directly implementing the CSTC;
- d. Recommend to the President of the Philippines the general, nationwide or
 large-scale mobilization of the Corps;
- e. Approve, as required under this Act, the development of a limited number
 of the Corps to national government agencies and local government units
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to assist in regional, provincial, city, municipal or barangay level disasters, emergencies and other contingencies;

- 3 f. Approve the regular deployment of a limited number of the Corps to the 4 Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) 5 and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) to serve as reservists and active-duty 6 cadres to meet the peace time stand by reserve requirements of said 7 agencies. To complement the existing AFP Reserve Force, the Commission 8 is hereby authorized and mandated to organize the reserve components of 9 the PNP and the OCD within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, the administration, operational control and funding of the newly 10 11 organized reserve components shall be vested upon the PNP and the OCD, 12 respectively. However, the Commission retains the authority to determine the allocation of the Corps to each of the reserve components; 13
- 14g. Investigate or secure the services or assistance of the appropriate agencies15to investigate cases of corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment and16other abuse in the conduct of the CSTC, mobilization of the Corps and17implementation of this Act;
- 18 h. Issue serial number to all graduates of the CSTC;

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- 19 i. Maintain a registry of all trainees and graduates of the CSTC;
- j. Promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations, in accordance with
 Section 26 hereof, to fully implement the provisions of this Act;
- k. Appoint, fix the compensation and determine the status, qualifications, and
 duties of the staff of the Commission. The members of the technical staff,
 except those performing purely clerical functions, shall possess at least a
 baccalaureate degree;
- 26 I. Generate and utilize resources to fully implement the provisions of this Act;
- m. Audit the utilization of the fees collected by public and private colleges,
 universities and similar learning institutions under Section 32 of this Act;
- n. Exercise such other powers as are necessary or essential to fully implement
 the provisions of this Act.
- Sec. 14. Organization of the Commission. The Commission shall have a Citizen
 Service Training Board and a Citizen Service Mobilization Board.

Sec. 15. *Citizen Service Training Board.* – The Citizen Service Training Board (Training Board) shall be composed of the Chairperson as head, the four (4) Commissioners, the Chairperson of the CHED and the Director General of the TESDA, or their duly authorized representatives, which shall be a Commissioner for the CHED and a Board Member for the TESDA.

6 The Training Board shall come up with the initial CSTC Programs of Instruction 7 (CSTC POI), including the officer qualifying course, within sixty (60) days from the 8 organization of the Commission. For this purpose, the Training Board is hereby 9 directed to tap the technical expertise of the AFP, the PNP and the OCD, the expertise 10 and experience of stakeholders in both public and private sector, and the curriculum 11 development expertise of the CHED, the TESDA and the DepEd, as well as public and 12 private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions. The CSTC POI shall be subject to the approval of the Commission. The Training Board shall also supervise 13 14 the continuous development of the CSTC POI.

Thereafter, the Commission, through the Training Board, shall ensure the incorporation of the CSTC POI in the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and al technical vocational courses (which may be completed in at least 2 years) officered by public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions, and in the curricula of Grade 11 and Grade 12 in all public and private learning institutions.

The Training Board shall adopt guidelines, which shall be incorporated in the rules and regulations of the Commission, for the organization of a Department of Citizen Service Training in every public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions. For colleges and universities with multiple campuses, there shall be a Department of Citizen Service Training for each campus.

Sec. 16. Citizen Service Mobilization Board. - The Citizen Service Mobilization 25 Board (Mobilization Board) shall be composed of the Chairperson as head, the four 26 27 (4) Commissioners, the Secretary of the DND, the Secretary of the DILG, and the Secretary of the Social Welfare and Development, or their duly authorized 28 29 representatives, with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary, and the Chief of Staff of 30 the AFP and the Director General of the PNP, or their duly authorized representatives with a rank of at least Brigadier General, Commodore or Chief Superintendent, as the 31 32 case may be.

The Mobilization Board shall administer the process of deployment of the Corps
 in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

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Development of the Citizen Service Training Course

ARTICLE VI

Sec, 17. *Components of the CSTC.* – The CSTC shall have the following basic
components:

7 a. External and Territorial Defense Training;

b. Internal Security and Peace and Order Training; and

c. Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training.

In addition to the foregoing basic components, the CSTC shall instill upon the youth the ideals of patriotism, nationalism and respect for human rights. These components shall be incorporated into four (4) modules which shall be administered in a span of at least four (4) semesters over at least two (2) years, unless otherwise allowed by the Training Board, and for at least sixty-four (64) hours every semester and sixteen (16) hours of field training exercises every year.

16 The trainees shall be organized by squads, platoons, companies, battalions, 17 brigades and divisions similar to military units. Military-type of discipline, organization 18 and trainee movement shall be observed in the conduct of the CSTC

Sec. 18. *Department of Citizen Service Training.* – Tasked with the primary duty 19 20 and responsibility of fully implementing the CSTC in their respective campuses, an autonomous department within each campus of their respective institutions shall be 21 established in all public and private colleges, universities and similar learning 22 institutions in accordance with the structure and organization provided in the rules 23 and regulations of the Commission. The head of each campus and/or learning 24 25 institution shall appoint a department head withing thirty (30) days from the effectivity of the rules and regulations implementing this Act. This department shall be known 26 27 as the Department of Citizen Service Training (DCST), which shall be directly under the office of the head of each campus and/or learning institution. 28

The DCST shall be civilian in character and shall administer the CSTC. However, it is understood that personnel of the AFP, PNP, and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) shall not be disqualified from being appointed as heads of the DCST.

1 The head of the DCST shall be chosen by the head of the learning institution 2 from among candidates who by reason of their training, experience and/or education 3 in the fields of external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order 4 and/or disaster risk reduction management is best qualified to be the head of the 5 DCST. The Commission shall have the authority to prescribe the qualifications for the 6 head of DCST.

Should a learning institution fail to organize a DCST and/or appoint a DCST
head within the period stated above, the Commission shall cause the establishment of
a DCST and/or appoint the head thereof.

Sec. 19. *The University of the Philippines as Curriculum and Development Center.* – The university of the Philippines (U.P.), as the National University, through its various DCSTs in each of its campuses, shall serve as the CSTC POI research and development center for the Commission. For this purpose, there shall be created a U.P. Center for Citizens Service Training (CCST) which shall be an autonomous unit under the Office of the U.P. President and shall have the following powers:

- a. Undertake studies, surveys, and research to assess and/pr enhance the
 implementation of the Commission;
- b. Design and develop CSTC subjects and modules for the review and approval
 of the Commission;
- c. Pilot test CSTC subjects, modules and programs if designed and developed
 within the U.P. system for purposes of assessment; and
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The U.P. CCST shall be located at eh U.P. Diliman DCST.

Sec. 20. *Development of the CSTC POI.* – The U.P CCST shall propose improvements to the CSTC POI, which shall undergo pilot-testing in each of the I.P campuses. The pilot-tested CSTC POI shall be submitted for the assessment, consideration and approval of the Commission within thirty (30) days from the last day for the pilot-testing semester.

The Commission and the U.P. CCST shall ensure the participation of third-party stakeholders and experts in the fields of external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management in the continued development and improvement of the CSTC POI.

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ARTICLE VII

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Deployment of the Citizen Service Corps

2 Sec. 21. Requests for Deployment. - The Corps may be called upon and 3 mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities and the 4 local government units in their functions related to external and territorial defense, 5 internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management, 6 through requests for deployment by the heads of such national government agencies 7 or local government units submitted to the Mobilization Board. The requests shall 8 contain a justification for the deployment of the Corps and shall contain information 9 as may be required by the Commission, including the nature of the national or local contingencies to be addressed, the purpose of the requested deployment, the number 10 of personnel requested to be deployed and the period of deployment. 11

Sec. 22. Evaluation of the Requests for Deployment. - The Mobilization Board 12 shall evaluate the requests for deployment. When the number of personnel requested 13 does not exceed one hundred and fifty (150) and the period of deployment does not 14 exceed sixty (60) days, the Mobilization Board shall decide whether to approve or 15 disapprove the request within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt thereof. When the 16 number of personnel requested one hundred and fifty (150) or the period of 17 deployment exceeds sixty (60) days, the Mobilization Board shall make a 18 recommendation to the Commission within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the 19 20 request. The Commission shall decide whether to approve or disapprove the request within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the recommendation of the Mobilization 21 22 Board.

In case of the approval of the request for deployment, the Mobilization Board shall issue an Order of Deployment requiring the Corps, or a number thereof, to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities and the local government units in their functions related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

Sec 23. *Deployment in Case of Declaration of a State of War, State of Lawless Violence or State of Calamity; Nationwide Mobilization.* - In case of a declaration of a state of war, state of lawless violence or state of calamity, the Commission may *motu proprio* recommend the mobilization of the Corps to the President of the Philippines. The President of the Philippines, by himself, shall also have the power to order the

mobilization of the Corps to respond to national or local contingencies related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order and/or disaster risk reduction management.

Sec. 24. *Mobilization Centers.* – There shall be established in each province and city as many mobilizations as needed according to the number and geographical distribution of the Corps, where they will report in case of deployment. The local government units shall provide an office, which shall be known as the Citizen Service Office, which shall handle the administrative aspects of mobilization.

9 In case of mobilization, the equipment of the Corps shall be supplied in close 10 coordination with the AFP, the PNP and the OCD, with the end in view of achieving 11 rapid mobilization.

Sec. 25. *Lines of Command.* – Upon deployment, operational control over the Corps shall be vested upon the head of the requesting national government agency or local government unit: *Provided,* That, in case of deployment for purposes of external and territorial defense, when the Corps is mobilized to expand the AFP in the event of war, invasion, rebellion or similar circumstances, operational control shall be vested upon the AFP.

Sec. 26. *Expenses of Deployment.* – The role of the Commission shall be to provide and marshal the required personnel to address national or local contingencies involving external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and national disaster risk reduction and management. Upon deployment, the national government agency or the local government unit to which the Corps is deployed shall shoulder the operational expenses of deployment.

Sec. 27. *Operationalization of Deployment.* – The Mobilization Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, shall promulgate the specific mechanisms by which deployment is efficiently implemented, including the organization of the Corps to be deployed, their territorial assignments, how deployment orders are communicated to each member of the Corps and to which mobilization center they will report.

29 Sec. 28. *Serial Numbers and Registry.* - Upon completing of the Basic CSTC, 30 the graduates shall be issued individual serial numbers, which will serve as their 31 identification in case of deployment.

1 The Commission shall maintain and update a registry containing information on 2 the members of the Corps, assigning to them identification numbers and categorizing 3 them according to their competencies and capabilities. For this purpose, all public and 4 private colleges, universities and learning institutions shall annually transmit their 5 records of the graduates of the CSTC to the Commission, in the form as may be 6 determined by the Commission.

Sec. 29. *Termination of Deployment.* - Upon the expiration of the requested period of deployment, without an extension having been requested and approved by the Commission, the Corps shall be discharged of its duties. The deployment may also be terminated earlier upon a determination by the Commission, in consultation with the requesting national government agency or local government unit, that such deployment is no longer in accordance with the objectives and purposes of this Act.

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Funding of the Citizen Service Corps

Article VIII

Sec. 30. *Citizen Service Fund.* – A Citizen Service Fund is hereby established
 exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this Act. The
 Office of the President shall monito and evaluate the activities and the balances of the
 Fund.

- Sec. 31. Appropriations. All funds previously appropriated for the 19 20 establishment, maintenance, and operation of the Reserve Officer's Training Corps Program of the AFP, established under Republic Act No. 7077, as amended, and which 21 will subsequently and hereafter be appropriated for such purpose shall be used 22 exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this Act. All funds 23 appropriated for the implementation of the National Service Training Program under 24 25 Republic Act No. 9163 shall also be used exclusively for the implementation of the 26 objectives and purposes of this Act.
- An initial funding of Fifty million pesos (Php50,000,00.00) shall be allocated from the Presidential Social Fund to sustain the operation of the Commission and the implementation of this Act for the first year of its effectivity. Thereafter, the Citizen Service Fund shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).
- 31 Sec. 32. *School Fees.* Public and private colleges, universities and similar 32 learning institutions shall not collect any fee for the CSTC, except basic tuition fees,

which shall be not more than fifty percent (50%) of what is charged per academic
unit. All such fees collected by the learning institution shall be used exclusively for the
direct training costs of those undergoing the CSTC in the said learning institution.

Sec. 33. *Incentives for Students Pursuing Advance CSTC.* – Students pursuing
the Advance CSTC shall be entitled to tuition fee discounts according to the following
schedule:

a. Successful graduates of the officer qualifying course shall be entitled to fifty
 percent (50%) discount on their tuition fees effective the semester after their
 completion of the officer qualifying course until their completion of the officer
 qualifying course until their completion of the Basic CSTC provided they serve
 as officers of the CSTC; and

- b. During their training under the Advance CSTC, they shall be entitled to one
 hundred percent (100%) discount on their tuition fees.
- For this purpose, public, colleges, universities and similar learning institutions shall issue tuition waivers in favor of the said students serving as officers of the CSTC. For private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions, the tuition fee discounts shall be subsidized from the Fund.

18 Officers of the CSTC shall likewise be entitled to a uniform allowance, which 19 shall be provided and given in kind by the Commission.

Furthermore, upon completion of the Advance CSTC, the graduates shall be entitled to a reserve commission as second lieutenant or its equivalent in the AFP, PNP or OCD; Provided, That they shall have obtained their baccalaureate degree courses within four (4) years from such completion, failing which their reserve commission shall be deemed revoked by operation of law.

The Commission shall ensure that an adequate portion of the Fund if allocated for the above incentives. The budget of the Commission to be submitted to the President shall likewise incorporate such allocation.

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ARTICLE IX

Penal Provisions

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Sec. 34. Failure to Respond. –

a. Failure to respond to the order of deployment for external and territorial
defense shall be punishable in accordance with the Articles of War, and shall,
upon conviction by a court-martial, be punishable by imprisonment of not less
than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years;

b. Failure to respond to the order of deployment for internal security and peace
 and order or disaster risk reduction and management shall, upon conviction by
 a civil court, be punishable as follows:

8	First Offense:	One hundred and twenty (120) hours
9		of community service
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11	Second Offense:	Two hundred and forty (240) hours of
12		community service; and
13		
14	Third and Subsequent	Six (6) months imprisonment and four
15	Offenses:	hundred and eighty (480) hours of
16		community service.

Sec. 35. *Corruption, graft, hazing and other abuses.* – For acts already penalized under existing laws such as corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment, and other abuses committed by persons authorized to administer the CSTC and deployment of the Corps, the maximum penalty imposable under existing laws shall be impose.

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ARTICLE X

Implementing Rules and Regulations

24 Sec. 36. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). - The Commission shall 25 be tasked to formulate and approve the necessary rules and regulations to implement the objectives and purposes of this Act within sixty (60) days from its organization. 26 27 The rules and regulations shall include provisions on the structure and organization of the Corps under Section 8, the structure of the Department of Citizen Service Training 28 under Section 18, the specific mechanisms for the efficient mobilization and 29 30 deployment of the Corps under Section 27, the incentives for students pursuing 31 Advance CSTC under Sec 33, and such other matters as the commission may be deem necessary or essential to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act. 32

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ARTICLE IX

Transitory Provisions

Sec 37. *Transitory Provisions.* - To ensure efficient transition and to enable all public and private colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions to adopt the necessary structural changes within their units in accordance with the provisions oof this Act, the CSTC shall be administered in all public colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions after the Commission has formulated the necessary implementing rules and regulations described in Section 36.

9 The Training Board shall ensure that the initial set of program managers who 10 shall instruct and train the first sets of enrollees in the CSTC in all public and private 11 colleges, universities and similar learning institutions are properly trained and 12 equipped. For this purpose, the Training Board shall develop a Program Managers 13 Training Course. All covered institutions are required to send program managers in a 14 number sufficient to implement the CSTC.

In all cases, students who are currently enrolled under the curriculum implemented by virtue of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, shall be allowed to finish the curriculum and be deemed to have satisfied the requirement for graduation after completion thereof.

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ARTICLE XIII

Final Provisions

Sec. 38. *Repealing Clause.* - Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, is hereby repealed. The relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 7707, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act, are hereby amended as appropriate. All other laws, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are likewise hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

27 Sec. 39. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or 28 unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force 29 and effect.

30 Sec. 40. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately after fifteen (15) 31 days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general 32 circulation.