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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
SECOND REGULAR SESSION)

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. BILL No. 2224

Introduced by Sen. Alfredo S. Lim

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is alarming to learn that after the enactment of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service Training Program in 2001 which made the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) optional among male college students, those pursuing such military training had drastically dropped indicating that either the government has not inculcated the proper attitude to the youth to imbibe patriotic ideals and love of country or that many young students simply are not prepared to defend their motherland when the time comes to do so.

In Central Visayas alone, the AFP revealed that college students pursuing military training to become part of the reserve force dropped to a little over 5,000 from a high of 40,000 when ROTC was still mandatory.

On the national level, reports have it that the number of students volunteering to take up ROTC was as low as 80,000 compared to the previous high of 250,000.

Sec. 4 of Article II of the Constitution provides:

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.

At the rate the number of college students prefer other forms of civic training under RA No. 9163 over ROTC, it is not farfetched that we will no longer have sufficient reserve officers for the AFP to tap in times of need.

Thus, the Armed Forces of the Philippines is pushing to make the Reserve Officers Training Corps. (ROTC) mandatory again for all male college students because making it so will not only give life and meaning to the constitutional provision as above-cited but instill discipline among the youth and make them more committed to do acts and deeds that serve the nation rather than indulge in fraternities, drugs and other tendencies not conducive to their development.

Especially now when talks about military unrest and dissatisfaction pervades, the ROTC must be invigorated, properly and sufficiently put in place, so that it can, under compelling circumstances, assist the AFP in bringing about peace and order throughout the archipelago. Of course, it cannot be gainsaid that the ROTC had been summoned in the past to provide security during election time. Indeed, now that there is a need to insure peaceful, orderly and credible elections, the services of the ROTC will surely foster such objectives because the cadets' idealism, integrity,

honesty and dedication can not be bought by money, blinded by promises or frightened by any form of threats.

Hence, it is the bill's purpose to re-institute ROTC as a mandatory course for all college students as mandated under Commonwealth Act No. 1, otherwise known as the National Defense Act.


ALFREDO S. LIM

SECTION 3. *Repeal of the pertinent provisions of RA No. 9163.* - The provisions of Republic Act No. 9163 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, Republic Act No. 7077 and of Commonwealth Act No. 1 are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. *Applicability* - This Act shall apply to all college students who are scheduled to graduate in the school-year 2007-2008.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved _____