

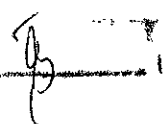
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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE
S. B. No. 889

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In moving toward the 21st century, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has begun the long overdue process of modernization. The program of modernization seeks to upgrade facilities, and acquire equipment to ensure that the Armed Forces can live up to its constitutional mandate of preserving our national sovereignty.

However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that a state has an obligation to safeguard our sovereignty by modernizing the military; it also has the primary duty to ensure the prosperity of the nation and provide adequate social services and an improved quality of life for its citizens.

Modernization of our Armed Forces should be accompanied by better and more improved benefits for the people, which comprise it - Military personnel and their dependents. The State therefore has the obligation of ensuring that the welfare of military personnel and their dependents is promoted and improved.

This piece of legislation lays down the necessary framework of institutionalizing benefits for military dependents and emphasizes on increasing benefits of the dependents for Health, Housing Education, and other benefits.

Thus, expeditious passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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SENATE

S. B. No. 889

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS,
CREATING THE MILITARY DEPENDENTS WELFARE OFFICE,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Title.*** This Act shall be known as the “Military
2 **Dependent’s Benefits Act of 2007.”**

3
4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** It shall be the policy of the state
5 to ensure the prosperity and well-being of its citizens through policies and
6 programs that provide adequate social services, promote rising standards of
7 living and an improved quality of life for all.

8 Moreover, the state recognizes the vital role of the military in the
9 protection of our country’s sovereignty and should therefore ensure the
10 promotion and improvement of the social and economic status of military
11 personnel and their dependents.

12
13 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** For purposes of this Act the
14 following shall mean:

15 (a) “**Military Dependent**” - refers to the wife, children and other
16 persons dependent on the military personnel for chief support, duly
17 registered with the Moral and Welfare Division, Office of the
18 Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel J1 of the Armed Forces of the
19 Philippines.

20 (b) “**AFP Military Personnel**” - shall include all active and
21 incapacitated members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.
22

1 **SECTION 4. *Educational Benefits.*** Dependents of military
2 personnel not exceeding four (4) shall be entitled to educational assistance in
3 any of the following educational levels with the indicated amount of support
4 per school year and corresponding durations as follows:

5

6 Educational level	7 Amount of Support	8 Duration
	9 (Per year)	
10 College	11 P 6,000.00	12 4/5 years
13 Vocational	14 P 4,000.00	15 2 years
16 Secondary	17 P3,000.00	18 4 years
19 Elementary	20 P2,000.00	21 6 years

22

23 **SECTION 5. *Health Benefits.*** Dependents of Military personnel
24 shall be entitled to the following health benefits to be provided by AFP
25 Health Facilities located in various parts of the country:

- 26 (a) Free Hospitalization, inclusive of professional services, medicine,
27 and medical supplies
28 (b) Dispensary or Outpatient Services
29 (c) Ambulance services
30 (d) Free Dental Services
- 31

32 **SECTION 6. *Housing Benefits.*** All Military Personnel and their
33 dependents shall be provided with the necessary housing subject to the
34 eligibility and priority system set by the Major Service/Unit Housing Boards
35 of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Housing, especially Off-Base housing
in preparation for retirement will be provided additional funding.

SECTION 7. *Commissary Benefits.* All Military Dependents shall be
entitled to the benefit/privilege of purchasing tax-exempt merchandise from
any of the AFPCES units either cash or salary check.

SECTION 8. *Other Benefits and Privileges.* Military Dependents
shall continue to receive all other existing benefits and privileges.

1 **SECTION 9. *Creation of the Military Dependents Welfare Office.***

2 There is hereby created a Military Dependents Welfare Office, herein after
3 referred to as the Office, which shall be attached to the Morale and Welfare
4 Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, J-1 Armed Forces
5 of the Philippines, for the coordination and recommendation of policies and
6 programs for military dependents.

7
8 **SECTION 10. *Functions of the Office.*** The Office shall have the
9 powers and functions:

10 (a) To act as coordinating body for all issues and concerns of military
11 dependents.

12 (b) To formulate and institutionalize the necessary system and
13 mechanism to ensure the effective and responsive delivery of
14 benefits for military dependents.

15 (c) To facilitate and ensure the swift release of benefits to the Military
16 Dependents.

17 (d) To review existing benefits and recommend the necessary
18 improvements to ensure better benefits for Military Dependents.

19 (e) To annually recommend to the Department of National Defense
20 appropriations for military dependent's benefits under the budget of
21 the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

22
23 **SECTION 11. *Coordination with Armed Forces of the***
24 ***Philippines Savings and Loans, Associations Incorporated (AFPSLAI)***
25 ***and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement Separation***
26 ***Benefit System (AFPRSBS).*** The Military Dependents' benefits office shall
27 coordinate with the AFPSLAI and AFPRSBS to facilitate and ensure the
28 release of benefits for military dependents.

29
30 **SECTION 12. *Appropriations.*** The Department of National Defense
31 shall, every year allocate a portion of their annual budget for the support of
32 this Act.

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34 **SECTION 13. *Rules and Regulations.*** The Department of National
35 Defense shall promulgate the Rules and Regulations necessary for the
36 effective implementation of this Act.

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SECTION 14. *Repealing Clause.* All Republic Acts, Executive Orders, Presidential Decrees, laws, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.* If, for any reason, any section or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining sections or parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,