

10 JUL -7 P4:51

SENATE

Senate Bill No. **753**

JS

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The death of a soldier or a policeman does not only mean that the country lost one of its brave warriors and defenders. It also means the loss of a father or a mother.

The tragedy does not end in the gallant fighter biting the dust. It continues on to his or her children, who may have to stop schooling due to the breadwinner's demise. The soldier's or policeman's poor family is pushed deeper into poverty, and this is because that gallant soldier or policeman put his life on the line for the sake of the country.

To help uplift the plight of families left behind by slain soldiers and policemen, this bill seeks to provide educational benefits for the minor children of soldiers and policemen who are killed by insurgents or slain in the line of duty.

The educational benefits for minor orphaned children will include tuition fees and a reasonable allowance for books, school supplies, transportation, clothing and food, and will cover those who were orphaned prior to the approval of this Act but are still minors upon its approval; beneficiaries who reach the age of majority while enjoying benefits and have not completed their secondary education shall continue to be entitled to the benefits until they complete their education; and those who are minors upon the approval of this Act.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

10 JUL -7 P4:51

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 753

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR THE MINOR CHILDREN
OF SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN WHO ARE SLAIN IN THE LINE OF DUTY
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Educational Benefits for Orphaned Minor Children. - Minor children of soldiers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines or member of the Philippine National Police who were slain in the line of duty shall be entitled to educational benefits from the time they are orphaned up to their completion of secondary education.

The benefits shall include tuition, and a reasonable allowance for books, school supplies, transportation, clothing, and food.

SEC. 2. Administration of the Educational Benefits System. - The Chief-of-Staff shall designate the office in the Armed Forces which shall administer the educational benefits system for the orphaned minor children of soldiers and promulgate appropriate rules and regulations thereof.

The Chairman of the National Police Commission shall designate the office in the Commission which shall administer the educational benefits system for the orphaned minor children of policemen and promulgate rules and regulations thereof,

SEC. 3. Funds for Educational Benefits. - There is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php10,000,000.00) for the educational benefits of orphaned minor children of soldiers for the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the initial year of operation. Thereafter, the amount required for said educational benefits shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

There is hereby also authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the amount of Ten Million Pesos (Php10,000,000.00) for the educational benefits of orphaned minor children of policemen for the National Police Commission for the initial year of operation. Thereafter, the amount required for said educational benefits shall be included in the annual appropriations of the National Police Commission.

SEC. 4. Coverage. - This Act shall cover children whose father or mother were killed by insurgents or slain prior to the approval of this Act and those minors who are orphaned after the approval of this Act.

Beneficiaries who reach the age of majority while enjoying the benefits of this Act but who have not completed their secondary education shall continue to be entitled to benefits until they complete secondary education.

SEC. 5. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,