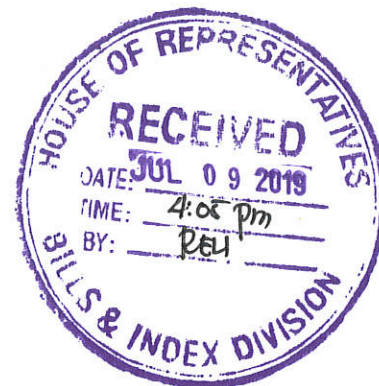


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1783



---

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This measure seeks to institutionalize a mandatory Reserve Officers' Military Education and Training Service (ROMETS) course for all Filipino college students, amending for the purpose the provisions of Republic Act 9163 or the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001 and strengthening the Citizen Armed Force or Reserve Force in Republic Act No. 7077, also known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservists Act.

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

"Section 4. 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 fulfilment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service."

However, with the enactment of Republic Act 9163, (National Service Training Program of 2001), this constitutional provision has been consigned to, more or less, oblivion as it had been very difficult to require able bodied Filipino male to undergo military education and training services, thereby putting to naught the rationale of the Citizen Armed Force enshrined in the Philippines Reservists Act.

Statistically, most college students under the NSTP prefer the other forms of civic course over the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), thus making it unimaginable for our country not to have sufficient reserve officers and manpower to call, to render military services when warranted by national exigencies, whether as a response to any national security threat or national emergency.

With the passage of this bill, it will give flesh and blood to the national policy envisioned by Section 4, Article II of the 1987 Constitution and that of the Philippine Reservists Act which provides for the organization, training, development and maintenance

of a Citizen Armed Force, to ensure their readiness to immediately respond to the call to service in times of war, invasion or rebellion.

Presently, this constitutional provision has never been more truthfully a necessity and timely insight of recent events wherein the Philippines is most imminent duty-bound to defend its territory over incursions of world and regional powers.

In view of the importance of this matter, we urgently ask for the passage of this bill.

  
HON. JEMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1783**

---

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JUMEL ANTHONY I. ESPINO**

---

**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS' MILITARY**  
**EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICE (ROMETS) FOR FILIPINO MALE**  
**STUDENTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND**  
**SIMILAR LEARNING INSTITUTIONS.**

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

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Reserve Officers' Military Education and Training Service (ROMETS) Act of 2019.**”

**SECTION 2. State Policy** — It is the policy of the State to serve and protect the people. The government may call upon the people to defend the State, in the fulfilment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service.

**SECTION 3. Coverage** — The mandatory Reserve Officers' Military Education and Training Service (ROMETS) shall apply to all male tertiary students enrolled in public or private universities, colleges and similar institutions. It shall form part of the curriculum of all baccalaureate degree courses and two (2)-year technical or vocational courses as requisite for graduation. The universities, colleges and similar learning institutions shall request for the conduct of military education and training in their respective schools through the Secretary of National Defense for the purpose of preparing enlisted and officer reservist.

**SECTION 4. ROMETS Program Course** – The program instruction shall be prescribed by the Secretary of National Defense to prepare male students for military service. Such course of instruction shall not exceed sixty (60) hours of instructions and training in the case of enlisted reservist and four (4) academic years in the case of officer reservists, which shall include the necessary summer or probationary training of not more than thirty (30) days.

**SECTION 5. Acceptance for Advance ROMETS** – Students who volunteer for Advance ROMETS shall be screened by a ROMETS Board of Reception which is hereby created for the purpose, composed of the Commandant of the ROMETS unit, a representative of the school nominated by the school administration, and a military physician.

The student volunteer shall be physically fit for training as certified by the school physician. Where the student is below eighteen (18) years of age, he shall be required to obtain parents' or guardian's consent.

In the case of students volunteering for reserve officers' training, they shall further be subjected to competitive examinations. The students undergoing Advance ROMETS shall be referred to as Advance ROMETS Cadets.

**SECTION 6. Persons Disqualified or Exempted.** — The following students are disqualified or exempted from the coverage:

- a. Students who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by the medical personnel of the university or institution concerned;
- b. Those convicted by final judgment of criminal offenses involving moral turpitude; and;
- c. Students of universities, colleges and other similar learning institutions who have undergone or are still undergoing ROMETS or similar military training as recognized by the Department of National Defense and Armed Forces of the Philippines as among those undergoing training to qualify as reservists.

**SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) shall, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Department of National Defense (DND), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

**SECTION 8. Repealing Clause.** – For Purposes of this Act, pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Act of 2001" is hereby deemed amended. All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 6. Effectivity.** - This Act shall be effective fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved*