

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City
Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session
House Bill No: **3642**



Introduced by **REP. MERCEDES C. CAGAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 4, Article II of the 1987 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."

The aforementioned constitutional provision underscores the importance of the required collaborative efforts of the government as well as of the people with respect to the defense of our country. Thus, Republic Act (RA) No. 7077, otherwise known as the "*Citizens Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act*" was approved. Among the pertinent provisions of RA 7077 were Sections 38 and 39 which stressed the need to conduct military training for students enrolled in the colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning for the purpose of producing qualified enlisted and officer reservists who are organized, trained, developed and maintained to ensure their immediate and quality response to the call of service as protectors of the people and the State.

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program was an integral component of the formative years of previous generations. It served not only as a tool for their personal development, but as a crucial pillar in their national identity, prompting them to realize the true concept of military service focused on serving and protecting the country.

On January 23, 2002, RA 9163, otherwise known as the "*National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001*," was approved. The said national service training program was enacted for the purpose of enhancing the youth's active contribution to the welfare of the country by undergoing training in any of its three (3) service components, namely: the ROTC, the Literacy Training Service and the Civic Welfare Training Service. The NSTP Act of 2001 amended Sections 38 and 39 of RA 7077 which made ROTC optional and voluntary.

This proposed measure seeks the revival of the ROTC for tertiary level students to instill in them the values of patriotism, discipline, obedience to authority, support for the adherence to the Constitution, respect of the rights of civilians and love of the country. Further, this discipline-based program will help the government produce well-prepared enlisted and officer reservists who will be in the frontline of rendering personal military or civil service particularly in times of disasters and other emergencies, and when insurgency or conflicts arise. This bill will in effect repeal RA 9163.

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


MERCEDES "DIDI" C. CAGAS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City:

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3642

Introduced by **REP. MERCEDES C. CAGAS**

AN ACT
REINSTATING THE MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING
CORPS (ROTC) FOR ALL TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OR ARMED
FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT"

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

SECTION 1. Section 38 of Republic Act No. 7077, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 38. *RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC).* – MILITARY TRAINING FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING IS MANDATORY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT AND THE 1987 CONSTITUTION."

SEC. 2. Section 39 of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 39. *ESTABLISHMENT OF ROTC UNITS IN SCHOOLS.* – IN COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING THAT REQUEST FOR THE CONDUCT OF MILITARY TRAINING IN THEIR INSTITUTIONS, THERE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS UNITS AS THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE MAY APPROVE, WHICH SHALL CONDUCT MILITARY TRAINING FOR THE STUDENTS OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING ENLISTED AND OFFICER RESERVISTS. THE PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION SHALL BE PRESCRIBED BY THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE: *PROVIDED*, THAT SUCH PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION INCLUDES BASIC ROTC WHICH SHALL NOT EXCEED TWO (2) ACADEMIC YEARS IN THE CASE OF ENLISTED RESERVISTS, AND ADDITIONAL TWO (2) ACADEMIC YEARS FOR ADVANCE ROTC IN THE CASE OF OFFICER RESERVISTS. THE FIRST TWO (2) YEARS OF BASIC ROTC

SHALL BE MANDATORY WHILE THE SECOND TWO (2) YEARS OF ADVANCE ROTC SHALL BE VOLUNTARY, INCLUDING A SUMMER OR PROBATIONARY TRAINING OF NOT MORE THAN SIXTY (60) CONSECUTIVE DAYS. THE ALLOCATION OF ROTC UNITS TO THE VARIOUS MAJOR SERVICES OF THE AFP SHALL CONFORM TO THE PROJECTED MANPOWER NEEDS OF ITS RESERVE COMPONENTS."

SEC. 3. Any student who is currently enrolled or has previously enrolled in either the Literacy Training Service or the Civic Welfare Training Service pursuant to Republic Act (RA) No. 9163, otherwise known as the "*National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001*," shall be allowed to complete the program as a requirement for their graduation.

SEC. 4. RA 9163 is hereby repealed. All other laws, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,