

Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 0606



Introduced by HONORABLE RESURRECCION MARRERO-ACOP, MD

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill proposes the re-institution of mandatory military training for all Grade 11 and Grade 12 students currently enrolled in any public or private educational institutions by reinstating and amending Sections 38 and 39 of Republic Act 7077, otherwise known as the "Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act".

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is designed to provide military training to Grade 11 and Grade 12 (Senior High School) students in order to motivate, train, organize and mobilize our youth for national defense preparedness. ROTC was institutionalized under Commonwealth Act No. 1, also known as "The National Defense Act." Under this measure, every physically fit student was required to pursue a course of military instruction designed to qualify him for a commission as a third lieutenant in the Regular or Reserve Forces.

The National Defense Act was amended by Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1706, otherwise known as "The National Service Law." The decree provides that each citizen shall render national service in any of the three main programs, namely: civic welfare service; law enforcement service; and military service.

The National Service Law was later amended by Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the "Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act" which provides for the mandatory taking of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). The law requires the completion of the course as a requirement for all college students in acquiring their baccalaureate degree.

On June 27, 1991, Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001, was approved. The program was enacted to enhance civic consciousness and defense preparedness in the youth by developing their ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training in any three program components, namely: the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC),

Literacy Training Service and Civic Welfare Training Service. Under RA 9163, ROTC was made optional and voluntary.

The proposed measure seeks the restoration of the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Course as provided in RA 7077 to equip our youth with necessary knowledge and skills in securing and defending the country in times of national emergency.

Mandatory military training is often considered beneficial as it can provide sufficient manpower reserves to augment an army in case of a military emergency¹. But the merit of this proposal to produce mobilizable reservists from the ROTC largely depend on its ability to suitably train them for their assignments, hence the impetus for a "reformed" ROTC program. This Representation is fully aware of the criticism as well as the impetus that led to the abolition of mandatory ROTC in the past. That is why this measure also seeks to incorporate increased technological advances, coupled with new learners' needs of the current and succeeding generations of Grade 11 and Grade 12 learners, which have created new realities for secondary education contexts. The reinstated ROTC program must reflect new pedagogical approaches and learning technologies in secondary education and identify innovations in teaching and learning practices² in secondary and higher education settings – with the overall objective of modernizing and reforming the new ROTC program and the Armed Forces of the Philippines military education system.

It is also this measure's hope that a rejuvenated ROTC program shall instill a sense of moral duty of citizenship, and strengthen the resolve in the next generation of Filipinos to answer the call to serve the nation, including the duty to defend and preserve the country, its people, and its way of life.

This bill will in effect repeal RA 9163.

Consistent with the constitutional mandate that the government may call upon the people to defend the state, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



RESURRECCION MARRERO-ACOP, MD

Representative

2nd District, Antipolo City

¹ Poutvaara, P. and Wagener, A., 2007. *Conscription: Economic costs and political allure*. The Economics of Peace and Security Journal, 2(1).

² Scoppio, G. and Covell, L., 2016. *Mapping Trends in Pedagogical Approaches and Learning Technologies: Perspectives from the Canadian, International, and Military Education Contexts*. Canadian Journal of Higher Education, 46(2), pp.127-147.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF MANDATORY MILITARY TRAINING
FOR ALL GRADE 11 AND GRADE 12 STUDENTS BY REINSTATING SECTIONS
38 AND 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OR ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
RESERVIST ACT"

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

SECTION 1. Sections 38 and 39 of Republic Act No. 7077, as previously amended by Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001," is hereby restored and subsequently amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 38. Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). - Military training for **GRADE 11 AND GRADE 12** 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. 39. Establishment of ROTC Units in Schools. - At such 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; **WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMBUING THE STUDENTS WITH KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ATTRIBUTES THAT SEEK NATIONAL UNITY, PEACE AND SECURITY AS WELL AS GLOBAL STABILITY, INCORPORATING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES, RELEVANT TO THE LEARNER'S NEEDS, AND INFORMED BY A SHARED ETHICAL FRAMEWORK;** and may include instruction to prepare female students for military service: Provided, That such course of instruction shall not exceed two (2) academic years in the case of enlisted reservists, and four (4) academic years in the case of officer reservists which shall include as necessary summer or probationary training of not more than sixty (60) consecutive days. The first two (2) years of ROTC training, which is mandatory **FOR GRADE 11 AND GRADE 12 STUDENTS**, shall hereafter be referred to as basic ROTC while the second two (2) years after said basic ROTC, which is voluntary for **TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS**, shall hereafter be referred to as advance ROTC. The allocation of ROTC units to the various major services of the AFP shall conform to the projected manpower needs of their respective reserve components."

SECTION 2. Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001," is hereby repealed. All other laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby amended and modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,