

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6223



Introduced by **HON. JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to enact into law a scholarship fund for the children of uniformed personnel killed in the act of duty or are permanently incapacitated.

Our uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) put their lives on the line everyday in the service of our countrymen. They encounter and face danger just to keep us safe.

Yet, they are lowly paid and most of their families just live above the poverty line. Their courage in the face of danger deserves to be recognized.

Amidst the threat of terrorism, communism and other acts that are deemed detrimental to the safety of the people, not to mention the daily crimes committed by perpetrators, the risk of injury to these heroes, exponentially increase. They should face all of these knowing that if anything happens to them, the education of their children until they finish college is guaranteed by the state.

It is but right that when these heroes die in the line of duty or suffer permanent incapacity while in the performance of their duties, that their families will be eased of some burden. Their loss of life and limb should mean something. They died as heroes and as such their children will be able to finish their schooling, one less burden for the bereaved family to bear.

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


JOSEPH "JOJO" L. LARA

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AN ACT
GRANTING EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS IN THE FORM OF SCHOLARSHIP
GRANTS TO THE ORPHANED CHILDREN OF UNIFORMED GOVERNMENT
PERSONNEL KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Libreng Pa-aral para sa mga Anak ng Bayani Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and to take appropriate steps to make education accessible to all. With that regard, our uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) being in the forefront of the government's fight against terrorism other acts that are deemed detrimental to the safety of the people, maintaining peace and order and being in the forefront of protecting lives and property of our countrymen, should have a peace of mind that if anything happens to them in the performance of their duties, that their children will still be able to continue their education until they graduate college.

They have dedicated their lives in the service of our people. Hence it is but right that when they die in the act of performing their duties or suffer permanent incapacity due to the performance of their mandate, that their children will not suffer more than they should. Hence, a free education for these children will lift some of the burden that has been brought by the death or incapacity of a parent who has served in the AFP, PNP, NBI, PCG, BFP and PDEA.

SECTION 3. *Educational Benefit.* – All personnel of the AFP, PNP, NBI, PCG, BFP and PDEA, who are killed in the line of duty or has suffered permanent incapacity shall be qualified for educational benefits for their children in the form of educational scholarships from the time of their death or permanent incapacity until they graduate

from a four (4) or five (5) year course in college. All children will also be entitled to a monthly allowance to for their daily school needs.

This scholarship is good for any public/government funded school or university, and as such, these children will be a priority in enrollment and shall be exempted in the payment of any school fees.

This Act will also apply retroactively, ten (10) years, subject to validation of the various agencies concerned.

SECTION 4. *Implementation.* – Within 60 days after its approval, The Department of Education (DepEd), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) shall issue and promulgate rules and regulations as deemed necessary for the evaluation, approval and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and in effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, issuances, orders, rules and regulations or portions thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and two (2) major newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,