

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5746



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under Republic Act. No. 8551, or the Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998, only college graduates are allowed to enter the police force and be part of the PNP organization. This particular provision presents downsides on the pool of applicants that could be recruited and on the force organization of the PNP. Since only college graduates are qualified to join the police force, many undergraduate applicants are stripped of the opportunity to become part of the organization and be able to serve and protect his countrymen. A considerable section of the population is no longer eligible, therefore, affecting the small number of applicants that could be recruited.

The existing police force is not sufficient to cover all functions. A whole lot of personnel are needed, in particular, for maneuver units. Then, it would be a favorable solution to allow recruitment of undergraduate applicants. Moreover, this would level the playing field for individuals who are underprivileged and cannot afford to go to college.

Maneuver units are tactical in nature. Usually, such units are engaged in internal security operations, crowd control and disaster response. Having 72 collegiate units, along with necessary rigorous training upon recruitment, would already be enough to acquire the basic competencies needed.

This bill seeks to amend Section 14 and 15 of RA 8551 and lower the educational requirement for police applicants. This intends to solve the problems of having insufficient police force, and also, making the recruitment process for police officers and non-officers to be more inclusive.

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


MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
AMENDING THE EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR POLICE APPLICANTS
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 AND 15 OF RA 8551 AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 14 of Republic Act No. 8551, is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3
4 “Section 14. Section 30 of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended to read as
5 follows:

6
7 Section 30. General Qualifications for Appointment – No person shall be
8 appointed as officer or member of the PNP unless he or she possess the
9 following minimum qualifications:

10 xxx

11 (d) Must possess a formal baccalaureate degree [from a recognized institution
12 of learning] **FOR APPOINTMENT AS OFFICER AND NON-**
13 **OFFICER EXCEPT THOSE WHO WILL BE ASSIGNED AT**
14 **MANEUVER UNITS WHO MUST HAVE FINISHED AT LEAST**
15 **SECOND YEAR COLLEGE OR THE EQUIVALENT OF**
16 **SEVENTY-TWO (72) COLLEGIATE UNITS. PROVIDED, THAT**
17 **WHEN THEY FINISHED A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE, THEY**
18 **MAY HAVE THE OPTION TO TRANSFER TO OTHER UNITS;**

19 xxx.”

20
21 **SEC. 2.** Section 15 of Republic Act No. 8551 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22
23 “Section 15. *Waivers for Initial Appointments to the PNP.* – The age, height, **AND**
24 weight, [and educational] requirements for initial appointment to the PNP may be
25 waived only when the number of qualified applicants fall below the minimum annual
26 quota: *Provided*, That an applicant shall not be below twenty (20) nor over thirty-five
27 (35) years of age: *Provided, further*, That any applicant not meeting the weight
28 requirement shall be given reasonable time but not exceeding six (6) months within
29 which to comply with the said requirement: [*Provided, furthermore*, That only
30 applicants who have finished second year college or have earned at least seventy-two

1 (72) collegiate units leading to a bachelor's degree shall be eligible for appointment:
2 *Provided, furthermore,* That anybody who will enter the service without a
3 baccalaureate degree shall be given a maximum of four (4) years to obtain the
4 required educational qualification:] *Provided, finally,* That a waiver for height
5 requirement shall be automatically granted to applicants belonging to the cultural
6 communities.”
7

8 **SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The National Police Commission
9 and the Philippine National Police shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for
10 the effective implementation of this Act.
11

12 **SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
13 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are
14 hereby repealed accordingly.
15

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

Approved,