

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
2044

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by HON. ALBERTO TOM UNGAB

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to mandate all male students in public and private universities, colleges and similar learning institutions to complete the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) component of the National Service Training Program as requisite for graduation, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 9163.

Section 4, Article II of the Philippine Constitution states that:

"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."

In the light of recent events in the West Philippine Sea, Filipino citizens may, by constitutional mandate as stated above, be called to defend Philippine sovereignty over its territory against incursions by foreign powers. Alongside that are major natural calamities such as typhoons, floods and landslides which befall our country every year, and the imminent threat of a catastrophic earthquake recently described in scientific studies such as the Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Study.

Preparedness to reduce the risks and enhance human capacities to respond to these contemplated situations include training individuals and arming groups and communities with applicable knowledge and systems.

Under Republic Act No. 7077 which was enacted in 1991, *"the Citizen Armed Force shall be so organized, trained, developed and maintained as to ensure their readiness to immediately respond to the call to service."* Alternately referred to as the Reserve Force, the main mission of the Citizen Armed Forces is to provide the

base for the expansion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the event of war, invasion or rebellion, and to assist in relief and rescue operations during disasters or calamities. Section 38 of the same law provides for the mandatory military training for students enrolled in colleges, universities and similar learning institutions.

However, the mandatory nature of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program was abolished through the passage of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "*National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001.*" Rendering the ROTC component of the NSTP as voluntary made it extremely difficult to implement the constitutional mandate that all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service. As a consequence of RA 9163, there was a considerable drop in ROTC enrollment. It is now a major concern that our country will no longer have sufficient reserve officers to render military service in the Citizen Armed Forces when warranted by national circumstances, whether as a response to a national security threat or catastrophic emergency.

The country is facing challenging times and it is crucial that we strengthen our youth's vital role in nation building. To achieve this, the government must reinstate the mandatory completion of the ROTC.

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


HON. ALBERTO TOM UNGAB,
3rd District, Davao City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2044

Introduced by **HON. ALBERTO TOM UNGAB**

AN ACT

MANDATING ALL MALE STUDENTS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND SIMILAR LEARNING INSTITUTIONS TO COMPLETE THE RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM AS REQUISITE FOR GRADUATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM ACT OF 2001"

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9163 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 4. *Establishment of the National Service Training Program.* – There is hereby established a National Service Training Program (NSTP) which shall form part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and of at least two (2)-year technical vocational courses and is a requisite for graduation, consisting of the following service components:

- a) The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) [, which is hereby made optional and voluntary upon the effectivity of this Act];
- b) The Literacy Training Service; and
- c) The Civil Welfare Training Service.

The ROTC under the NSTP shall instill patriotism, moral virtues, respect for the rights of civilians and adherence to the Constitution, among others. Citizenship training shall be given emphasis in all three (3) program components.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with the Department of National Defense (DND), Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA) and other concerned government agencies, may design and implement such other program components as may be necessary in consonance with the provisions of this Act."

SECTION 2. Section 5 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. *Coverage* – [Students, male and female] MALE STUDENTS of any baccalaureate degree course or at least two (2)-year technical vocational courses in public and private educational institutions shall be required to complete THE ROTC COMPONENT, WHILE FEMALE STUDENTS SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE one (1) of the NSTP components, as requisite for graduation."

SECTION 3. Section 7 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 7. *NSTP Offering in Higher and Technical Vocational Educational Institutions.* – All higher and technical vocational institutions, public and private, must offer THE ROTC AND at least one of the OTHER TWO program components [: *Provided*, That State universities and colleges shall offer the ROTC component and at least one other component as provided herein: *Provided, further*, That private higher and technical-vocational education institutions may also offer the ROTC if they have at least three hundred and fifty (350) cadet students].

In offering the NSTP whether during the semestral or summer periods, clustering of affected students from different educational institutions may be done, taking into account logistics, branch of service and geographical considerations. Schools that do not meet the required number of students to maintain the [optional] ROTC and any of the NSTP components shall allow their students to cross-enroll to other schools irrespective of whether or not the NSTP components in said schools are being administered by the same or another branch of

service in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), CHED and TESDA to which schools are identified.”

SECTION 4. Section 10 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 10. *Management of the NSTP Component.* – The school authorities shall exercise academic and administrative supervision over the design, formulation, adoption and implementation of the different NSTP components in their respective schools. IN THE CASE OF ROTC, THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES AND THE DND SHALL EXERCISE JOINT SUPERVISION OVER ITS IMPLEMENTATION, SUBJECT TO THE POLICIES, REGULATIONS AND PROGRAMS OF THE DND ON THE MILITARY COMPONENT OF THE TRAINING. THE DND SHALL FORMULATE AND ADMINISTER THE TRAINING MODULES FOR THE ROTC: *Provided*, That in case a CHED- or TESDA-accredited non-government organization (NGO) has been contracted to formulate and administer a training module for any of the NSTP components, such academic and administrative supervision shall be exercised jointly with that accredited NGO: *Provided, further*, That such training module shall be accredited by the CHED and TESDA.

“The CHED and TESDA regional offices shall oversee and monitor the implementation of the NSTP under their jurisdiction to determine if the trainings are being conducted in consonance with the objectives of this Act. Periodic reports shall be submitted to the CHED, TESDA and DND in this regard.”

SECTION 5. Section 13 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 13. *Transitory Provisions.* – [Students who have yet to complete the Basic ROTC, except those falling under Section 14 of this Act,] MALE STUDENTS WHO ARE ALREADY ENROLLED IN A PROGRAM COMPONENT OTHER THAN ROTC may either continue in the program component they are currently enrolled or shift to [any of the other program components of their choice] THE ROTC BASIC COURSE: *Provided*, That in case [he] THEY shift[s] to [another] THE ROTC program component, the [Basic ROTC] OTHER PROGRAM COMPONENT courses [he has] THEY HAVE completed shall be counted for the purpose of completing the NSTP requirement: *Provided, further*, That once [he has] THEY HAVE shifted to [another] THE ROTC program component, [he] THEY shall complete the NSTP in that component.”

SECTION 6. Section 14 of the same Act is hereby repealed.

SECTION 7. All laws, decrees, executive orders, agreements, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,