

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City
17th CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2780**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RECEIVED

DATE: **10 AUG 2016**

TIME: **1:30 PM**

BY: **ml**

REGISTRATION UNIT

FILES AND NOT X SERVICE

Introduced by Representative Wes Gatchalian

EPLANATORY NOTE

As in most countries the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) is mandatory upon its male citizens. It behooves upon these nations to tap their youth to be trained and developed in military training and exercises for civic and defense preparedness.

This representation believes that it is now the opportune time to re-institutionalize the basic military and officer training for our tertiary students. By this legislation, we provide the appropriate training to ensure their readiness to respond to the call to service.

In its Declaration of Principles and State Policies, our Constitution has espoused that the government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof all citizens may be required, under conditions required by law, to render personal military or civil service. Under Commonwealth Act No. 1, the avowed policy was that the preservation of the State is the obligation of every citizen. In Republic Act No. 7077, everyone is called upon to maximize the opportunity in safeguarding the security of our State. Laws are replete with policies on service to countrymen. Given this, it is thus the reciprocal obligation of the state to ensure that its citizens are equipped with necessary trainings to be able to fulfill their obligation should the state require it.

Wes Gatchalian
Representative
1st District of Valenzuela

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House Bill No. _____

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AN ACT
TO RE-INSTITUTIONALIZE THE MANDATORY MILITARY
AND CIVIC RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) FOR STUDENTS IN
ALL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

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

Section 1. Statement of Policy. - a). It is the policy of the State to serve and protect the people. The government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service; b) The State recognizes the role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Section 2. Coverage. - The conduct of military training under the ROTC shall apply to all male students enrolled in colleges, universities and technical or vocational schools. Female students shall undergo civic training under the ROTC on basic rescue operations and the delivery of health services. Students shall be required to complete the ROTC for an academic period of two (2) years.

Section 3. Establishment of the ROTC. - There is hereby established a mandatory military and civic training for all college students. The ROTC shall form part of the curriculum of all college degree courses as well as technical or vocational courses, and shall be a pre-requisite for graduation.

The Department of National Defense (DND) with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other concerned government agencies shall formulate the ROTC course of instruction and adopt the rules and regulations to effectively carry out the objectives of this Act. The school authorities shall, with the DND, CHED and TESDA provide close coordination and administrative supervision to ensure the fitness and well-being of the students to undertake the training.

Section 4. *Funding.* - The funds for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the ROTC shall be provided for in the general appropriations act of the Department of National Defense.

Section 5. *Persons Disqualified or Exempted from this Act:*

1. Students who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by the DND medical officer and medical personnel of the academic institution where the concerned student is enrolled;
2. Students who have undergone or are undergoing similar military training;
3. Students who are active members of the AFP and the PNP;
4. Those who may be exempted from training for valid reasons which may be authorized jointly by the DND and the academic institution where the concerned student is enrolled.

Section 6. *Transitory Provision.* - This Act shall apply in the year following its approval. Any student enrolled and undertaking any component of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) shall be allowed to continue and complete the program.

Section 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,