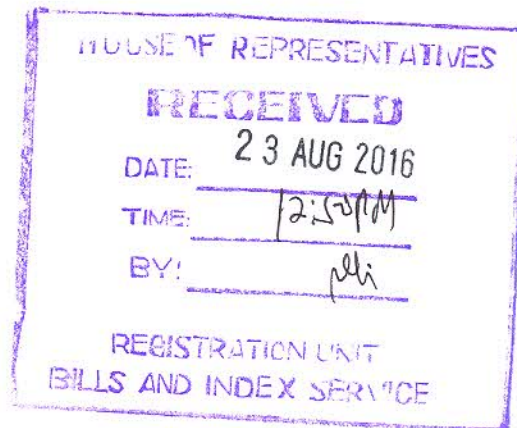


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,**  
Quezon City Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**

First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3194**



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Introduced by **HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This measure seeks to institutionalize a mandatory Military Education and Training Services (METS) course for all Filipino male college students, amending for the purpose the provisions of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001 otherwise known as RA No. 9163 and strengthening the Citizen Armed Force or Reserved Force in Republic Act No 7077, also known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservists Act.

Section 4, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

"SEC. 4. The prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. 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."

However, with the enactment of RA 9163 (National Service Training Program of 2001), this constitutional provision has been consigned to more or less oblivion as it had been very difficult to require able bodied Filipino male to undergo military education and training services, thereby putting to naught the rationale of Citizen Armed Force enshrined in the Philippines Reservists Act.

Statistically, most college students under the NSTP prefer the other forms of civic course over the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), thus making it unimaginable for our country not to have sufficient reserve officers and manpower to call to render military services when warranted by national exigencies, whether as response to any national security threat or national emergency.

With the passage of this Bill, it will give flesh and blood to the national policy envisioned by Section 4, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and that of the Philippines Reservists Act which provides for the organization, training, development and maintenance of a Citizen Armed Force to ensure their readiness to immediately respond to the call to service in times of war, invasion or rebellion.

Presently, this constitutional provision has never been more truthfully a necessity and timely in light of recent events wherein the Philippines is in most imminent duty-bound to defend its territory over incursions of foreign powers such as the threat of China.

In the light of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.**  
Representative  
Fifth District, Pangasinan

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**

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**AN ACT**

**INSTITUTIONALIZING THE MANDATORY MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES (METC) FOR FILIPINO MALE STUDENTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND SIMILAR LEARNING INSTITUTIONS**

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 "**Mandatory MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES (METS) Act of 2016**".

SECTION 2. *Statement of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to serve and protect the people. The government may call upon the people to defend the State in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* - The Mandatory Military Education and Training SERVICES (METC) shall apply to all male tertiary students enrolled in public or private universities, colleges, and similar institutions. It shall form part of the curriculum of all baccalaureate degree courses and two (2) - year technical or vocational courses as requisite for graduation.

SECTION 4. *Military Education and Training Services (METS).* - The Mandatory Military Education and Training Services (METS) is hereby declared mandatory for all male students enrolled in any private or public university, colleges, and similar learning institutions. The universities, colleges and similar learning institutions shall request for the conduct of military training in their respective schools, through the Secretary of National Defense for the purpose of preparing enlisted and officer reservists.

The program instruction shall be prescribed by the Secretary of National Defense to prepare male students for military service. Such course of instruction

shall not exceed sixty (60) consecutive days of summer instructions in the case of enlisted reservists and four (4) academic years in the case of officer reservists which shall include the necessary summer or probationary training of not more than sixty (60) consecutive days.

The METS course of instruction for the enlisted reservist, which shall be mandatory and shall hereafter be referred to as the basic METS, while the course of instruction for the officer reservist, which is voluntary, shall hereafter be referred to as Advance METS. The allocation of METS units to the various services of the AFP shall conform to the projected manpower needs of their respective reserve components.

SECTION 5. *Acceptance for Advance METS.* Students who volunteer for Advance METS shall be screened by a METS Board of Reception which is hereby created for the purpose, composed of the Commandant of the METS unit, a representative of the school nominated by the school authorities, and a military physician.

The student volunteer shall be physically fit for training of his own volition. Where the student is below eighteen (18) years of age, he shall be required to obtain parents' or guardian's consent.

In the case of students volunteering for reserve officers' training, they shall further be subjected to competitive examinations. The students undergoing Advance METS shall be referred to as Advance METS Cadets.

SECTION G. *Persons Disqualified or Exempted.* - The following students are disqualified or exempted from the coverage:

- a. Students who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by the medical personnel of the university or institution concerned;
- b. Those convicted by final judgment of criminal offenses involving moral turpitude; and
- c. Students of universities, colleges, and other similar learning institutions who have undergone or are still undergoing METS or similar military training as recognized by the military authorities as among those undergoing training to qualify as reservists.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Department of Education shall, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and the Department of National Defense (DND), issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - For purposes of this Act, pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Act of

2001" is hereby deemed amended. All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved,**