

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2087**



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Introduced by **Representative RANEO E. ABU**  
Second District, Batangas

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**AN ACT**

**AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077 MANDATING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF BASIC RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) IN GRADES 11 AND 12 IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article II, Section 4 of the 1987 Constitution provides that 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.

Likewise, pursuant to the 1987 Constitution under Article II, Section 13 thereof, the State recognizes the vital 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.

The inculcation of the spirit of nationalism, nation-building, and national preparedness among a country's population is vital to that country's survival. A democratic and freedom-loving country such as the Philippines is devoid of its essence if its citizens, failing to recognize the clear and present danger hanging over the heads of its entire population, keep on turning towards themselves only as individuals rather than collectively to protect our nation and our way of life as a whole.

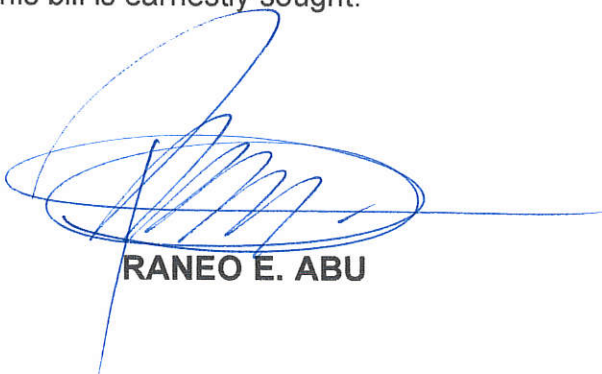
It must be recognized, then, that the school is the most powerful institution when it comes to shaping the hearts and minds of the youth. It is essential, therefore, to use the school as an invaluable instrument – as it already is – to ensure that Filipino students are geared to become disciplined, active, responsive, participative, and patriotic citizens and able defenders of our country.

This bill seeks to use schools as instruments of nationalism, nation-building, and national preparedness. It is not enough that students are taught about the greatness of our forefathers; nor is it sufficient to simply rely on Filipino, HEKASI, Makabayan, Social Studies, Araling Panlipunan, or Social Science classes in an effort to impart to the students the value of discipline, patriotism, and nationhood. These values cannot be taught in a classroom setting. The Filipino Youth should be physically trained in upholding these values because this will be the foundation for a productive society and a stronger Philippine Republic.

Also, with our country's all-out war to finally neutralize all threats to security and safety of our people, it is the duty of the National Government to train the tens of millions of Filipino youth on how they can defend themselves, their families, their communities, and help uphold the sovereignty of the State.

It is in this spirit that it thus becomes vital to re-institutionalize the Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program for the Filipino youth. If implemented efficiently, it would have the potential to produce an entire generation of young Filipinos who will be proud of their Filipino heritage and are ready to give the entirety of their being to serve their countrymen, to defend the State at all cost, and in a collective effort to make the Philippine Republic a real Southeast Asian Superpower in the near future.

For these reasons, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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

**Section 1. Declaration of Constitutional Policy.**-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. In the same manner, the State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building, and shall promote civic consciousness among the youth and shall develop their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism, nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Towards this end, the State shall enhance the capacity of the nation to produce the needed manpower and to expand its human resources in times of war, calamities and disasters, national or local emergencies, and in support to the Government's law enforcement strategy against crimes, by creating a pool of trained reservists.

**Section 2. Coverage.** -The Basic Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) shall be mandatory in Grades 11 and 12 (Senior High School Level under RA 10533) in any public and private educational institutions as requisite for graduation.

**Section 3. Establishment of ROTC Program in all Public and Private Educational Institutions. –**

- a. There is hereby established a mandatory two (2) year Basic ROTC program for students enrolled in Grades 11 and 12 which shall form part of the basic curricula for the Senior High School Education in any public and private educational institutions in pursuance to the provisions of the National Defense Act and the 1987 Constitutions, with the objective of producing well-trained and prepared reservists for military and civic service. The ROTC training is aimed to instill patriotism, love of country, moral and spiritual virtues, respect for human rights and adherence to the Constitution.
- b. The ROTC shall include the following program of institutions in order to inculcate love of country, leadership and character development:
  - b.1. Enhancing the students consciousness in the ethics of service, patriotism and nationalism, respect for human rights, appreciation of the role of national heroes in the historical development of the country, strengthen ethical and spiritual values, develop personal discipline and leadership and to encourage creative thinking for scientific and technological development;
  - b.2. Basic military training for students in order to motivate, train, organize and utilize for national defense preparedness or civil-military operations;
  - b.3. Civic training for students in order to be active participants and volunteers for the development and improvement of health, education, ecology and environmental protection, disaster risk reduction and management, human and civil rights awareness and law enforcement.
- c. Guided by the provision of Section 3(b) hereof, the Department of National Defense (DND), the Department of Education (DepEd) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with other relevant government agencies and private stakeholders as the Secretary of National Defense may determine, shall design and formulate the Program of Institution (POI) on the ROTC program in Grades 11 and 12, within sixty (60) days from approval of this Act, shall jointly issue Implementing Rules and Regulations for the effective implementation of any provisions of this Act.



**Section 4. Students Exempted from this Act.** - The Following may be exempted from the coverage of this Act:

- a. Those who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by AFP Surgeon General or his authorized medical officer, in pursuance to the recommendation of the educational institutions where the concerned student is enrolled.
- b. Those who have undergone or are undergoing similar military training.
- c. Those who may be exempted from training for valid reasons as approved by the Department of National Defense, upon recommendation by any educational institution where the concerned student is enrolled.

**Section 5. Acceptance for Advance ROTC.** – Students who volunteer for advance ROTC program in universities, colleges, vocational schools and other tertiary institutions shall be governed by Section 40 of RA 7077 (*"Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act"*). The provisions of Section 42 and 43 of RA 7077 in terms of training, uniforms and supplies, and the scholarship incentive shall remain effective and applicable for those accepted in the Advance ROTC course. It shall be mandatory for all public and private universities, college and similar learning institutions to offer and provide a training school for the Advance ROTC Program which shall have a duration in accordance with the curriculum prescribed by DND and CHED.

The Secretary of National Defense, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall prescribe the curriculum for advance ROTC and the program of instruction in pursuance to the applicable provisions of RA 7077.

Graduates of Advance ROTC shall be eligible for commissionship or enlistment in the AFP or shall be given priority for lateral entry in other armed and law enforcement services of the government.

**Section 6. Organization, Operation and Maintenance of ROTC Units.** – The organization, operation and maintenance for the establishment of ROTC shall be in accordance with Sections 41 and 42 of RA 7077 which shall remain effective and operative unless inconsistent

with this Act. The Secretary of National Defense, in consultation with DepEd and TESDA, shall prescribe the organization and operational manual of ROTC units in public and private educational institutions for Grades 11 and 12. Provide further, that such educational institutions are required to provide an adequate office for the ROTC administrative staff assigned thereat.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall create an office dedicated to the supervision and administration of the ROTC program within the Reserve Commands of the AFP in coordination with the DepEd and TESDA.

**Section 7. Incentives for Undergoing ROTC Program. –**

- a. Graduates of two (2) year Basic ROTC and have completed a four (4) year baccalaureate degree shall be considered as First Level Civil Service Eligibility. Whereas, graduates of Advance ROTC and finished a four (4) year baccalaureate degree shall be considered as Second Level Civil Service Eligibility in the Civil Service.
- b. Subject to other requirements prescribed by rules and regulations, graduates of Basic ROTC are eligible for commissionship/lateral entry and enlistment in the AFP, PNP, Coast Guard, BJMP, and BFP unless a waiver is issued by the Department Secretaries of the aforementioned military and civilian armed services.
- c. Students undergoing Basic ROTC and those accepted in the ROTC Advance Course are provided free hospitalization in any government hospital in case of accident or injury during the training. Mandatory insurance for students undergoing ROTC should be provided by the school where the students are enrolled.
- d. Students undergoing Basic and Advance ROTC are given access and privileges with any AFP Commissary and PX Stores nationwide. The Chief of Staff, AFP shall issue the necessary regulations for the implementation of this privilege.

**Section 8. Funding.** – The funds for the establishment, maintenance and operation of ROTC shall be provided in the General Appropriations Act of the DND, DepEd, CHED and TESDA.

**Section 9. Transitory Provisions.** – In case of amendment, modification, repeal or declaration of unconstitutionality of RA 10533 (*Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013*), the DND, CHED and TESDA shall issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations Adjusting the coverage of this Act to all tertiary students enrolled in any public and private universities, colleges, vocational schools and other educational institutions.

**Section 10. Penalties.** – Any students who fails to undergo the mandatory ROTC in accordance with this Act shall not be qualified for graduation. In addition thereto, the non-taking of ROTC by any student shall be a ground for Compulsory Military Training in pursuance to Section 14 of RA 7077. Any educational institution that fails to institute and implement the ROTC program in pursuance to this Act shall be subject to disciplinary and administrative sanctions as the DepEd, CHED and TESDA may impose.

**Section 11. Repealing and Amendatory Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent or in conflict with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**Section 12. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect upon its approval.