

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 5220

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize the granting of Lateral Promotion for Honor Graduates who chose to enter the Military & Uniformed Service Bureaus/Agencies of the government, namely; Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Corrections and Philippine Coast Guard after their successful 2-year service and Lateral Promotion of all Honor Graduates who are currently in the uniformed service for more than two (2) years to the Rank of Lieutenants or Inspectors or its equivalent.

The Constitution explicitly provides that 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. It explicitly mandates the government to afford the youth with every possible opportunity for participation and involvement in national endeavors, especially those that will lead to the improvement of communities and other public service.

During the incumbency of President Ferdinand E. Marcos, granting of Civil Service Eligibility was decreed under Presidential Decree 907 once they will graduate as Honor Graduates of four-year or longer courses from schools, colleges and universities of good standing as determined by the Secretary of Education. The Decree showed that the government is convinced that a student who has pursued his collegiate course as a scholar and has in fact graduated with honors, has sufficiently shown that he is fit to hold a position in the public service and competent to discharge its duties and responsibilities

It has long been considered that graduation with honors earned under the competitive atmosphere of the academic community is as good as a determination of merit and excellence for public employment and that the immediate absorption of these honor graduates in the public service will assure their participation in public affairs and buoy up the quality of the civil service.


The Decree boosted interest of the youth to government service. Since then, however, only a small fraction of honor graduates chose government service over other job opportunities thereby making the government lost the chance of hiring and retaining people who are close to the ideal of keeping the best and the finest for public service.

In view of the above, the government must do more and create a mechanism which will inspire the youth to study hard while in college by giving them preference in the employment in the government's military and uniformed service bureaus/agencies and promote them to the rank of Lieutenants or Inspectors after 2-year service and greater leadership role as well as make sure to retain the presently employed Honor Graduates of the Uniformed Service Bureaus/Agencies of the government who have already served for more than 2 years by promoting them to the Rank of Lieutenants or Inspectors as a fitting recompense for their sacrifices to graduate as part of the cream of the crop and giving them opportunity to lead as

they are already proven leaders. The 2-year service shall be considered their learning stage wherein they will learn the different and unique facets of their bureau/agency so as to better prepare and equip them with leadership qualities.

If the government automatically absorbs graduates from the PMA and PNPA and make them Officers after their graduation, paid for their baccalaureate studies and gave them decent allowances, why can it not do to Honor Graduates who have to work hard for their education, make both ends meet as scholars, most of the times, even without support from the government and under the normal, not artificial, competitive environment?

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is intensely sought.



RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
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AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANTING OF LATERAL PROMOTION FOR HONOR GRADUATES WHO CHOOSE TO ENTER THE MILITARY & UNIFORMED SERVICE BUREAUS/AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, NAMELY: THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS AND PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD AFTER THEIR SUCCESSFUL 2-YEAR SERVICE; AND THE LATERAL PROMOTION OF ALL HONOR GRADUATES WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICE FOR MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANTS OR INSPECTORS OR ITS EQUIVALENT, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy — It is the policy of the State to afford the youth with every possible opportunity for participation and involvement in national endeavors, especially those that will lead to the improvement of communities and other public service and attract and keep the best and the finest to work for public service.

Section 2. Coverage — As used in this Act, the term "Honor Graduates" shall be understood as those who graduated summa cum laude, magna cum laude or cum laude, or an equivalent of any of these honors in their Bachelor's degree, regardless of the number of years of completion, from colleges and universities of good standing as recognized by the Commission of Higher Education.

Section 3. Preference of Employment — The military and uniformed service bureaus/agencies of the government, namely; Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of jail Management, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Corrections and Philippine Coast shall preferably hire or employ Honor Graduates in the furtherance of keeping the best and the finest in the uniformed service.

Section 4. Lateral Promotion to the rank of Lieutenant or Inspector or its equivalent - After completion of the 2 years of service, Honor Graduates shall be promoted to the Rank of Inspector: Provided, that for the duration of 2-year service, the Honor Graduate shall obtain an adjectival rating of at least VERY SATISFACTORY in his/her Strategic Performance Management System: Provided further, that the presently enlisted/employed Honor Graduates for more than two (2) years in the uniformed service of the government who obtained at least VERY SATISFACTORY RATING in his/her Strategic Performance Management System for four consecutive semesters.

Section 5. Penalty for Violation — The appointing Authority who knowingly violates the provisions of this Act shall be punished by a fine equivalent to one month salary for the first violation and dismissal from the service for the second violation.

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The Civil Service Commission, the Department of Budget and Management, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Department of National Defense, the Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation, shall within 30 days from the approval of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement its provisions.

Section 7. Separability Clause – If any provisions of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. Repealing Clause – All laws, rules, regulations, orders, circulars and memoranda which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,