

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. **4147**

Introduced by **Honorable Carmelo B. Lazatin II**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) plays a pivotal role in the maintenance of peace and order in the country. With its unenviable duty of thwarting threats to the country's internal and external security, the AFP is at the forefront of defending the integrity of the State not only in the battle fields but also in times of calamities, both man-made and natural.

Notwithstanding their invaluable service to the country, members of the AFP are saddled with remuneration issues, especially the deployed ones, whose compensation is not commensurate to their dedication to public service and the hazard that comes with the work they do. Though no monetary amount can match the selfless dedication of our troops, this Bill seeks to commend the exemplary performance of soldiers through the provision of scholarship grants to their children.

Providing members of the AFP and their families with adequate support is seen as an integral key in increasing professionalism and boosting the efficiency of the military personnel, considering the nature of their profession that frequently entails calls for life-threatening duties away from their homes.

Through the provision of scholarship grants to the children of deployed troops, the State can be assured that our soldiers are freed from the burden caused by the uncertainties of the duties they perform.

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


CARMELO B. LAZATIN II

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

4147
House Bill No. _____

Introduced by **Honorable Carmelo B. Lazatin II**

AN ACT
PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO CHILDREN OF THE DEPLOYED MEMBERS
OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*AFP Scholarship Grant Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to recognize the selfless deeds and extraordinary valor of the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assigned in the fields in order to maintain peace and order throughout the country. As a way to uplift the morale of the said AFP members and to promote their welfare and that of their families, the State shall provide free education to their children from Kindergarten to Senior High School, as well as college scholarship grants to deserving students.

SEC. 3. *Enforcement of the Act.* – It shall be the primary duty of the AFP, the Department of National Defense (DND), the Department of Education (DepEd), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), to effectively enforce the provisions of this Act. The AFP shall be responsible in screening the qualifications and certifying the eligibility of the applicants.

SEC. 4. *Children of AFP Personnel Scholarship Fund.* – There is hereby created a Children of AFP Personnel Scholarship Fund to be administered by the Department of Education for Kindergarten to Grade 12 levels, and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for college level, in financing the education of talented and deserving children of active AFP personnel.

SEC. 5. *Scholarship Program.* – The scholarship grant provided under this act shall award the grantee a monthly stipend of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) for Kindergarten to Grade 6, and One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for Grade 7 to Grade 12, during the regular academic year. Thereafter, said child of the AFP personnel may also avail of the college scholarship: *Provided, That* said child shall pass the admission examination and satisfy the pertinent requirements of the State University or College they intend to enroll in. The grantee may enroll in any public or private university or college throughout the country and shall be granted financial aid amounting to fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fees.

SEC. 6. *Qualifications.* – To be eligible for the scholarship grant under this Act, the applicant must be a bona fide and legally recognized child of an AFP personnel who is deployed in combat during the time of

application, regardless of age, and must comply with all the requirements that may be established by the DepEd or CHED for the purpose.

SEC. 7. *Scholarship Program*—The scholarship grant provided under this act shall award the grantee a monthly stipend of Five hundred pesos (P500.00) for Kindergarten to Grade 6, and One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) for Grade 7 to Grade 12, during the regular academic year. Thereafter, said child of the AFP personnel may also avail of the college scholarship: *Provided*, That said child shall pass the admission examination and satisfy the pertinent requirements of the State University or College they intend to enroll in. The grantee may enroll in any public or private university or college throughout the country and shall be granted financial aid amounting to fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fees.

SEC. 7. *Limitations*. -- Children of retired and deceased members of the AFP who were deployed in combat shall be also entitled to the scholarship grant: *Provided*, That the former AFP personnel parent does not have any pending criminal or administrative case before any court of justice or tribunal. In case the member is charged of any criminal or administrative case during the period of scholarship, the grant shall be automatically terminated. Scholarship applicants already possessing a Bachelor's degree are no longer qualified to be a beneficiary of the scholarship program.

SEC. 8. *Conditions of the Grant*. – The grantees of the scholarship must maintain a general weighted average (GWA) grade of eighty-five percent (85%) or better, with no failing grade in any subject. The grantee must also be enrolled full-time, in regular hours or carry a full semestral or trimestral load as prescribed in the course curriculum and finish within the normal duration of the course. Failure to meet any of these conditions shall be a ground for the termination of the grant.

SEC. 9. *Appeal*. – Upon receipt of a written notice of termination of scholarship due to non-compliance or violation of the terms and conditions of the scholarship, a grantee may, not later than fifteen (15) days from receipt of the notice, file an appeal for reconsideration and reinstatement of the scholarship with the DepEd or CHED. Upon the lapse of the fifteen (15) days wherein a grantee may file an appeal and no appeal is made, the termination of scholarship shall become final and executory.

SEC. 10. *Service Obligation*. – After graduating from college, a grantee must render return service in the Philippines on a full-time basis, preferably in the grantee's home region and along the grantee's field of training, for a period equivalent to two (2) years for every year that the grantee enjoyed the scholarship. Return service may be done by being employed within the Philippines in a government agency or a private company or by self-employment. The proof of employment, such as, certificate of employment, business permit, income tax return and other documents evidencing the grantee's completion of the required number of years of return service must be submitted to the CHED before being issued a final clearance.

A grantee that is unable to render the return service obligation imposed under this section shall be liable to reimburse the Government the amount equivalent to the scholarship funds received under this Act.

SEC. 11. *Review and Monitoring*. – The AFP shall report to the President of the Philippines and to Congress after the first year, and annually thereafter, on the implementation of the provisions of this Act and submit recommendations for its improvement.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the AFP, jointly with the DepEd and CHED, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be included in the appropriations of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the annual General Appropriations Act of the year the following the effectivity of this Act. For the initial funding for the college scholarship grant, the same shall be sourced from the savings of the State Colleges and Universities (SUCs) and

other possible sources to be determined by the Office of the President. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the effective and continuous implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations and administrative regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 16. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,