

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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2467

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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REGISTRATION UNIT BILL AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Representative Lucy Torres-Gomez

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom, so it has been said.


A vigilant people, however, is a prepared people, for there is no sense in being a watchful people absent the wherewithal that give force and substance to such vigilance.

Recent developments have given the nation pause to reflect upon its abolition of the mandatory nature of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). The scene of Filipinos being bullied by a foreign power within their own country's territorial waters and the continuing failure to stamp out sheer banditry by the Abu Sayyaf have forced the issue of re-examining the merits of making the ROTC as an optional course.

Without a doubt, there will be those who, for various reasons, would remain vocal in their opposition to the restoration of mandatory ROTC training. To them, we respond with Thomas Paine's admonition that "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

This bill seeks to revive the mandatory ROTC training in the tertiary level in the earnest belief that it is to the best interest of the State.

The early approval of this bill is therefore respectfully requested.


LUCY TORRES-GOMEZ
Representative
Fourth District of Leyte

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2467

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AN ACT
REINSTATING THE RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS
(ROTC) AS A MANDATORY COURSE OR SUBJECT FOR
STUDENTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES,
COLLEGES AND SIMILAR POST-SECONDARY LEARNING
INSTITUTIONS

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

SECTION 1. *Statement of 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.

SEC. 2. *Coverage.* - The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) shall be a mandatory course or subject for students enrolled in all public or private universities, colleges and similar post-secondary learning institutions. Compliance thereto shall be a prerequisite for graduation.

SEC. 3. *Curriculum or Program Instruction* – The program of instruction for the ROTC shall be that as provided under Section 39 of

Republic Act No. 7077 (Citizen Armed Force Or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act) which is hereby revived.

SEC. 4. *Persons Disqualified or Exempt From This Act.* –

(a). Students who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by the medical personnel of the educational institution concerned or by a medical officer of the Department of National Defense (DND);

(b). Students who have undergone or are undergoing similar military training, duly recognized by the government as adequate to qualify the trainees as reservists in the military;

(c). Students who are active members of the AFP and the PNP;

(d) Students who may be so exempted or disqualified by the DND for other valid reasons.

SEC. 5. *Funding.* – The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations of the Department of National Defense (DND). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the DND.

SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of National Defense, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Skills and Development Authority (TESDA) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the “National Service Training Program

Act of 2001" are hereby repealed. All other laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and the letters 'h' and '57'.