

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



'19 NOV 18 P 3:17

S E N A T E
S. No. 1176

RECEIVED BY *J*

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

**AN ACT INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING
COURSE, ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS,
CREATING THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION
COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution empowers the State to call on its citizens to render personal military and civil service. The Constitution also mandates the Armed Forces of the Philippines to maintain, in addition to its regular force, a reserve force which shall undergo military training.

At the same time, the 1987 Constitution recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and encourages the State to inculcate in them patriotism and nationalism and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Now more than ever, we are in need of a strong citizen service and military reserve force that may be called on to respond to national emergencies and disasters and external and internal threats to national security. It now behooves the State to constitute the youth into a major component of the citizen reserve force envisioned in the 1987 Constitution.

In doing so, the State must remain conscious of its undertaking to the international community that the minimum age for voluntary recruitment into the Armed Force of the Philippines (which includes the regular force and the reserve force) is eighteen (18) years, and that minors will only be subjected to military training if the minors attain majority age at the completion date of their training. The State must also remain cognizant of the proven inadequacies of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) model under Republic Act No. 7077 and the National Service Training Program (NSTP) model under Republic Act No. 9163, and seek to address these weaknesses.

This measure seeks to establish a comprehensive framework for training and mobilization of the youth within the current frameworks of national and external defense, law enforcement and peace and order and national disaster risk reduction and management.

The bill establishes the Citizen Service Training Course (CSTC) as mandatory for all tertiary-level students enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses in all public and private colleges. Graduates of the CSTS shall comprise the Citizen Service Corps, civilian in character but possessed of a strong military component, prepared for rapid mobilization to address national and/or local emergencies and contingencies and external and internal threats to national security.

In all, this bill is a structured, coherent and comprehensive legislative measure for the training and mobilization of the youth for their holistic development. It gives life to the constitutional mandate of raising the youth as partners in nation-building, encouraging their early involvement in public and civic affairs, and developing a citizenry that is ready to defend the State in personal military and civil service, without violating our commitments to the international community.

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



AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE,
ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING
THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

1 ARTICLE I
2 TITLE

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
4 “Citizen Service Act.”

5 ARTICLE II
6 DECLARATION OF POLICY

7 SEC. 2. *Statement of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State:

8
9 a) To institutionalize the vital role of the youth in nation-building,
10 promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and
11 social well-being; to inculcate in them patriotism and nationalism; and to
12 encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;

1 b) To constitute the youth into a major component of the citizen
2 reserve envisioned in the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the
3 Philippines, which shall undergo training and may be called upon to
4 defend the State and to render personal military or civil service under
5 conditions provided by law; and

6

7 c) To train, equip and organize the youth, within the current
8 frameworks of national and territorial defense, law enforcement and
9 peace and order and national disaster risk reduction and management, to
10 prepare them for rapid mobilization at the soonest possible time in order
11 to address national and/or local contingencies which may require
12 manpower beyond the capabilities of existing national government
13 agencies or local government units.

16 **SEC. 3. Basic Citizen Service Training Course.** – There is hereby
17 instituted a Basic Citizen Service Training Course (Basic CSTC) which
18 shall form part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and
19 all technical vocational courses (which may be completed in at least two
20 (2) years).

21

22 The Basic CSTC shall have the following components:

23

24 a) External and Territorial Defense Training;

25

26 b) Internal Security and Peace and Order Training; and

27

28 c) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training.

29

30 The Basic CSTC shall be divided into four (4) training modules to
31 be administered for at least four (4) semesters over two (2) school years,
32 unless otherwise allowed by the Citizen Service Training Board. It shall
33 include at least sixty-four (64) hours of lecture and sixteen (16) hours of

1 practical training every semester, and at least sixteen (16) hours of field
2 exercises every year.

3

4 The trainees, who shall be referred to as cadets, shall be organized
5 by squads, platoons, companies, battalions, brigades and divisions
6 similar to military units. Military-type of discipline, organization and
7 cadet movement shall be observed in the conduct of the Basic CSTC.
8 The Basic CSTC shall instill upon the youth the ideals of patriotism,
9 nationalism and respect for human rights.

10

11 Except for justifiable causes and upon the issuance of a Certificate
12 of Exemption by the Citizen Service Mobilization Commission
13 (Commission), the Basic CSTC must be completed, as far as practicable,
14 within the first two (2) years of all baccalaureate degree courses and
15 technical vocational courses. The completion of the Basic CSTC shall be
16 a prerequisite for enrollment to the third year of all baccalaureate degree
17 courses and technical vocational courses.

18

19 When the Basic CSTC is allowed to be taken beyond the first two
20 (2) years of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational
21 courses, completion of the Basic CSTC shall be a requisite for
22 graduation in the said courses.

23

24 **SEC. 4. Summer Citizen Service Training Camp.** – In addition to
25 the requirements under Section 3, the Basic CSTC shall require for its
26 completion attendance in a Summer Citizen Service Training Camp
27 (Summer CSTC), which shall consist of at least thirty (30) days of
28 direct instruction and training to be administered in two (2) tranches of
29 fifteen (15) days a year and, except for justifiable causes, must be
30 completed within the first two (2) years of all baccalaureate degree
31 courses and technical vocational courses.

32

33 The Summer CSTC shall be conducted within the campuses or
34 facilities of all public and private colleges, universities, or similar
35 learning institutions. Should it be determined by the said public and

1 private colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions that it is
2 impracticable to conduct the Summer CSTC in their respective
3 campuses or facilities, they should immediately make the same known to
4 the Commission's Citizen Service Training Board (Training Board),
5 which upon the proposal of the public and private colleges, universities,
6 or similar learning institutions, shall designate such safe and appropriate
7 venues for the Summer CSTC. As far as practicable, the venue shall be
8 proximate to the campuses or facilities of the public and private
9 colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions.

10

11 The Program of Instruction for the Summer CSTC shall be
12 developed by the Training Board and shall focus on practical and field
13 training exercises. It shall be administered under the control and
14 supervision of the Commission, which may tap the personnel and
15 expertise of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine
16 National Police (PNP) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). For such
17 purpose, the AFP, the PNP and the OCD are hereby directed to make its
18 camps and premises, training facilities and equipment, and pool of
19 trainers available to the Commission for the efficient, effective and
20 realistic conduct of the Summer CSTC.

21

22 **SEC. 5. Coverage.** – All tertiary-level students, male and female,
23 enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses
24 (which may be completed in at least two (2) years) in all public and
25 private colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions shall be
26 required to undergo the Basic CSTC.

27

28 **SEC. 6. Special CSTC for Students under Specific Circumstances.**
29 – There shall be no exemptions from the Basic CSTC. However, the
30 Commission shall prescribe Special CSTC to address the peculiar needs
31 and circumstances of students under the following circumstances:

32 a) Those who are classified and officially registered as persons
33 with disabilities;

34

1 b) Those whose religious beliefs prohibit the use of firearms in
2 rendering service to the country; and

3
4 c) Those who have been convicted by final judgment of crimes
5 involving moral turpitude;

6
7 *Provided*, that foreign citizens enrolled in baccalaureate degree
8 courses or technical vocational courses where CSTC is required shall
9 also undergo a Special CSTC prescribed by the Commission that would
10 deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Philippines, its
11 people, society, culture and government, and harness their potential as
12 bridges to improve, their respective countries' ties with the Philippines.

13
14 **SEC. 7. Advance CSTC.** – There is also hereby instituted an
15 Advance CSTC which may be pursued by all graduates of the Basic
16 CSTC, except those who have been convicted by final judgment of
17 crimes involving moral turpitude; and who have successfully finished a
18 one-semester Officer Qualifying Course within the first two (2) years of
19 their baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses. The
20 Officer Qualifying Course shall include leadership and management
21 training, which will equip the graduates thereof to themselves administer
22 the Basic CSTC, shall be completed in one (1) semester; and shall
23 consist of at least one hundred and twenty-eight (128) hours of lecture,
24 practical training and field exercises in external and territorial defense,
25 internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and
26 management. Graduates of the Officer Qualifying Course, who shall be
27 referred to as cadet officers, shall compose the Officer Corps of the
28 Basic CSTC in each campus and shall administer the conduct of the
29 Basic CSTC of each campus under the administrative control and
30 supervision of the Department of Citizen Service Training (DCST) of
31 the respective campuses.

32
33 It shall be mandatory for all public and private colleges,
34 universities and similar learning institutions offering baccalaureate
35 degree courses to offer the Advance CSTC in all their campuses, which
36 shall have a duration of at least eight (8) semesters over four (4) school

1 years, which shall include the first two (2) years of Basis CSTC, unless
2 otherwise allowed by the Training Board. However, enrolment
3 thereunder shall be voluntary. Graduates of the Advance CSTC shall be
4 posted to leadership roles in the Citizen Service Corps (Corps)
5 established herein.

6

7 **SEC. 8. *Preparatory CSTC.*** – There is further hereby instituted a
8 Preparatory CSTC which shall be administered and implemented by the
9 Department of Education (DepEd) to all students, male and female,
10 enrolled in Grades 11 and 12 in all public and private learning
11 institutions. The Preparatory CSTC shall be an introductory/orientation
12 course to the Basic CSTC and is hereby declared a requirement for
13 enrollment in all baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational
14 courses (which may be completed in at least two (2) years) in all public
15 and private colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions.

16

ARTICLE IV

17

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS

18

19 **SEC. 9. *Citizen Service Corps.*** – There is hereby established a
20 Citizen Service Corps which shall be composed of all the graduates of
21 CSTC and may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national
22 government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and the local
23 government units in their functions related to external and territorial
24 defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk
25 reduction and management.

26

ARTICLE V

27

CREATION OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION

28

29 **SEC. 10. *Citizen Service Mobilization Commission.*** – There is
30 hereby created a Citizen Service Mobilization Commission, which shall
31 oversee the CSTC and the Corps, and implement the objectives and
32 purposes of this Act. The President shall appoint the Chairperson and
33 the four (4) Commissioners as provided herein within sixty (60) days
34 from the effectivity of this Act. The Commission must organize itself in

1 accordance with the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from
2 the appointment of all its members. The Commission shall be an
3 attached agency of the Office of the President.

4

5 The Commission shall ensure the full implementation of this Act
6 within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

7

8 **SEC. 11. Composition of the Commission.** – The Commission shall
9 be composed of a Chairperson and four (4) Commissioners, namely,
10 two (2) Commissioners for Training and two (2) Commissioners for
11 Mobilization. The Secretary of the Department of National Defense
12 (DND), the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local
13 Government (DILG), the Chairperson of the Commission of Higher
14 Education (CHED), and the Director General of the Technical
15 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), or their duly-
16 authorized representatives with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary for
17 the DND and the DILG, Commissioner for the CHED, or Board
18 Member for the TESDA, shall be ex-officio voting members of the
19 Commission.

20

21 The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be citizens and
22 residents of the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of good
23 moral character, of recognized probity and independence, and, through
24 their training, experience, and education, must have distinguished
25 themselves as best-suited to discharge the duties of their offices. They
26 must not have been candidates for any elective national or local office in
27 the immediately preceding elections, whether regular or special. The
28 Chairperson and the Commissioners, who shall have the rank equivalent
29 of cabinet secretary and undersecretary, respectively, shall be appointed
30 by the President.

31

32 **SEC. 12. Quorum.** – Five (5) members of the Commission shall
33 constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of at least a majority of
34 those present, there being a quorum, shall be necessary for the adoption
35 of any rule, ruling, order, resolution, decision, or other acts of the
36 Commission; Provided, that the affirmative vote of at least five (5)

1 members of the Commission shall be necessary for the exercise of the
2 powers and functions of the Commission under Section 15(a), (d), (f),
3 (j), and (k), as well as those under Section 20, paragraph 4, Section 29,
4 and Section 31.

5

6 **SEC. 13. *Term of Office.*** – The term of office of the Chairperson
7 and the Commissioners shall be seven (7) years, without reappointment.
8 Of those first appointed, the Chairperson and the two (2)
9 Commissioners first to be appointed shall hold office for seven (7)
10 years, while the two (2) Commissioners last to be appointed shall hold
11 office for five (5) years. Appointment to any vacancy shall only be for
12 the unexpired term of the predecessor.

13

14 **SEC. 14. *Compensation and Other Emoluments of the Members***
15 *and Employees of the Commission.* – The compensation and other
16 emoluments of the members and employees of the Commission shall be
17 exempted from the coverage of Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise
18 known as the Salary Standardization Act. For this purpose, the
19 compensation and other emoluments of the Chairperson,
20 Commissioners and employees of the Commission shall be fixed based
21 on an objective classification system, taking into consideration the
22 importance and responsibilities attached to their respective positions,
23 and shall be submitted to the President for his approval.

24

25 **SEC. 15. *Powers of the Commission.*** – The Commission shall
26 have the following powers:

27

28 a) Design, prescribe and/or approve the programs of instruction for
29 the CSTC, including special courses for students under specific
30 circumstances;

31

32 b) Ensure the proper administration of the CSTC;

33

34 c) Exercise supervision and control over all agencies, offices and
35 persons, directly implementing the CSTC;

1 d) Recommend to the President the general, nationwide or large-
2 scale mobilization of the Corps;

3
4 e) Approve, as required under this Act, the deployment of a limited
5 number of the Corps to national government agencies and to local
6 government units to assist in regional, provincial, city, municipal or
7 barangay level disasters, emergencies and other contingencies;

8
9 f) Approve the regular deployment of a limited number of the
10 Corps to the AFP, the PNP and the OCD to serve as reservists and active
11 duty cadres to meet the peace time stand-by reserve requirements of said
12 agencies;

13
14 g) Investigate or secure the services or assistance of the appropriate
15 agencies to investigate cases of corruption, graft, hazing, sexual
16 harassment and other abuses in the conduct of the CSTC, mobilization
17 of the Corps and implementation of this Act;

18
19 h) Issue serial numbers to all graduates of the CSTC;

20
21 i) Maintain and update a registry/database of all cadets and cadet
22 officers of the CSTC;

23
24 j) Promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations, in accordance
25 with Section 39 hereof, to fully implement the provisions of this Act;

26
27 k) Appoint, fix the compensation and determine the status,
28 qualifications, and duties of the staff of the Commission. The members
29 of the technical staff, except those performing purely clerical functions,
30 shall possess at least a baccalaureate degree;

31
32 l) Generate and utilize resources to fully implement the provisions
33 of this Act;

1 m) Audit the utilization of funds appropriated, collected or
2 advanced for the implementation of this Act; and

3
4 n) Exercise such other powers as are necessary or essential to fully
5 implement the provisions of this Act.

6
7 **SEC. 16.** *Organization of the Commission.* – The Commission
8 shall have a Citizen Service Training Board (Training Board) and a
9 Citizen Service Mobilization Board (Mobilization Board).

10
11 **SEC. 17.** *Citizen Service Training Board.* – The Training Board
12 shall be composed of the Chairperson as head, the two (2)
13 Commissioners for Training, the Chairperson of the CHED and the
14 Director General of the TESDA, or their duly authorized
15 representatives, which shall be a Commissioner for the CHED and a
16 Board Member for the TESDA. The Secretary of the DepEd, or his duly
17 authorized representative, with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary,
18 shall be a consulting non-voting member of the Training Board.

19
20 The Training Board shall come up with the initial CSTC Programs
21 of Instruction, including the Basic CSTC, the Advance CSTC, the
22 Program Managers Training Course and the Officer Qualifying Course
23 (CSTC POI), within sixty (60) days from the organization of the
24 Commission. For this purpose, the Training Board is hereby directed to
25 tap the technical expertise of the AFP, the PNP and the OCD, the
26 expertise and experience of stakeholders in both public and private
27 sector, and the curriculum development expertise of the CHED, the
28 TESDA and the DepEd, as well as public and private colleges,
29 universities and similar learning institutions. The CSTCPOI shall be
30 subject to the approval of the Commission. The Training Board shall
31 also supervise and see to the continuous development of the CSTC POI.

32
33 Thereafter, the Commission, through the Training Board, shall
34 ensure the incorporation of the CSTC POI in the curricula of all
35 baccalaureate degree courses and all technical vocational courses (which

1 may be completed in at least two (2) years) offered by public and private
2 colleges, universities and similar learning institutions, and in the
3 curricula of Grade 11 and Grade 12 in all public and private learning
4 institutions.

5

6 The Training Board shall adopt guidelines, which shall be
7 incorporated in the rules and regulations of the Commission, for the
8 organization of a DCST in every public and private colleges, universities
9 and similar learning institutions. For colleges and universities with
10 multiple campuses, there shall be a DCST for each campus.

11

12 **SEC. 18. Citizen Service Mobilization Board.** – The Mobilization
13 Board shall be composed of the Chairperson as head, the two (2)
14 Commissioners for Mobilization, the Secretary of the DND and the
15 Secretary of the DILG, or their duly authorized representatives with a
16 rank of at least Assistant Secretary. The Secretary of the Department of
17 Social Work and Development, or his duly authorized representatives
18 with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary, the Chief of Staff of the AFP
19 and the Police General of the PNP, or their duly authorized
20 representatives with a rank of at least Brigadier General, Commodore or
21 Police Brigadier General, as the case may be, shall be consulting non-
22 voting members of the Mobilization Board.

23

24 The Mobilization Board shall administer the process of
25 deployment of the Corps in accordance with the provisions of this Act.
26 From time to time as manpower and training resources may allow, the
27 Mobilization Board may call for retraining of the Corps to maintain and
28 enhance its level of competency and readiness for mobilization. For this
29 purpose, the Mobilization Board may call for training mobilizations for
30 periods not exceeding fifteen (15) days.

31

32 **SEC. 19. Annual Reports.** – The Commission shall regularly
33 publish an annual report containing a list of its accomplishments, status
34 of its operations, number and demography of the Corps, assessment of
35 readiness for mobilization and the incidence and details of each
36 mobilization for the year concerned. The annual report shall also

1 include the results of the audit investigation on the spending of funds
2 appropriated, collected or advanced for the implementation of the
3 provisions of this Act, as referred to under Section 31, Section 32 and
4 Section 33 hereof. The Office of the President and both houses of
5 Congress shall be furnished with copies of the annual reports.

6

ARTICLE VI

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE

7

8

9 **SEC. 20.** *Department of Citizen Service Training.* – Within each
10 campus of their respective institutions, all public and private colleges,
11 universities and similar learning institutions shall establish and
12 maintain, in accordance with the structure and organization provided in
13 the rules and regulations of the Commission, an autonomous
14 Department of Citizen Service Training, which shall be tasked with the
15 primary duty and responsibility of fully implementing the CSTC in their
16 respective campuses. The DCST shall have an overall department head,
17 a commandant for external and territorial defense, a commandant for
18 internal security and peace and order, and a commandant for disaster
19 risk reduction management.

20

21 The head of each campus and/or learning institution shall appoint a
22 department head within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of the rules
23 and regulations implementing this Act. Within thirty (30) days from
24 acceptance of his appointment, the department head shall submit a list of
25 three (3) names for each commandant position from which the head of
26 each campus and/or learning institution shall appoint, within fifteen (15)
27 days from receipt of the lists, the three (3) commandants.

28

29 The DCST shall be directly under the office of the head of each
30 campus and/or learning institution. It shall be civilian in character and
31 shall administer the CSTC. However, it is understood that personnel of
32 the AFP, PNP and the OCD shall not be disqualified from being
33 appointed as heads of the DCST.

1 The head of the DCST shall be chosen by the head of the learning
2 institution from among candidates who by reason of their training,
3 experience and/or education in the fields of external and territorial
4 defense, internal security and peace and order and/or disaster risk
5 reduction management is best qualified to be the head of the DCST. The
6 Commission shall have the authority to prescribe the qualifications for
7 the head of DCST.

8

9 Should a learning institution fail to organize a DCST and/or
10 appoint a DCST head within the period stated above, the Commission
11 shall cause the establishment of a DCST and/or appoint the head thereof.

12

13 **SEC. 21. *The University of the Philippines as Curriculum and***
14 ***Development Center***. – The University of the Philippines (U.P.), as the
15 National University, through its various DCSTs in each of its campuses,
16 shall serve as the CSTC POI research and development center for the
17 Commission. For this purpose, there is hereby created a U.P. Center for
18 Citizen Service Training (CCST), which shall be within the U.P. System
19 and under the Office of the U.P. President. It shall have the following
20 powers:

21

22 a) Undertake studies, surveys, and research to assess and/or
23 enhance the implementation of the CSTC;

24

25 b) Design and develop CSTC subjects and modules for the review
26 and approval of the Commission;

27

28 c) Pilot test CSTC subjects, modules and programs it designed and
29 developed within the U.P. system for purposes of assessment; and

30

31 d) Subject to the approval of the U.P. President and the U.P. Board
32 of Regents, prepare the plantilla of the U.P. CCST.

33

1 The governing body of the U.P. CCST shall be an executive
2 committee composed of the department heads of the various DCSTs in
3 each campus of the U.P. System. The chairperson of the executive
4 committee shall be elected for a term of three (3) years from among the
5 members of the executive committee.

7 The U.P. CCST shall be located at the U.P. Diliman DCST.

SEC. 22. Development of the CSTC POI. – The U.P. CCST shall propose improvements to the CSTC POI, which shall undergo pilot-testing in each of the U.P. campuses. The pilot-tested CSTC POI shall be submitted for the assessment, consideration and approval of the Commission within thirty (30) days from the last day of the pilot-testing semester.

16 The Commission and the U.P. CCST shall ensure the participation
17 of third-party stakeholders and experts in the fields of external and
18 territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster
19 risk reduction and management in the continued development and
20 improvement of the CSTC POI.

ARTICLE VII

DEPLOYMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS

SEC. 23. Requests for Deployment. – The Corps may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities and the local government units in their functions related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management, through requests for deployment by the heads of such national government agencies or local government units submitted to the Mobilization Board. The requests shall contain a justification for the deployment of the Corps and shall contain information as may be required by the Commission, including the nature of the national or local contingencies to be addressed, the purpose of the requested deployment, the number of personnel requested to be deployed and the period of deployment.

1 **SEC. 24. Evaluation of the Requests for Deployment.** – The
2 Mobilization Board shall evaluate the requests for deployment. When
3 the number of personnel requested does not exceed one hundred and
4 fifty (150) and the period of deployment does not exceed sixty (60)
5 days, the Mobilization Board shall decide whether to approve or
6 disapprove the request within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt
7 thereof. When the number of personnel requested exceeds one hundred
8 and fifty (150) or the period of deployment exceeds sixty (60) days, the
9 Mobilization Board shall make a recommendation to the Commission
10 within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the request. The
11 Commission shall decide whether to approve or disapprove the request
12 within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the recommendation of
13 the Mobilization Board.

14

15 In case of the approval of the request for deployment, the
16 Mobilization Board shall issue an Order of Deployment requiring the
17 Corps, or a number thereof, to assist the national government, its
18 agencies and instrumentalities and the local government units in their
19 functions related to external and territorial defense, internal security and
20 peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

21

22 **SEC. 25. Deployment in Case of a Declaration of a State of War;**
23 *State of Lawless Violence or State of Calamity; Nationwide*
24 *Mobilization.* – In case of a declaration of a state of war, state of lawless
25 violence or state of calamity, the Commission may *motu proprio*
26 recommend the mobilization of the Corps to the President of the
27 Philippines. The President of the Philippines, by himself, shall also have
28 the power to order the mobilization of the Corps to respond to national
29 or local contingencies related to external and territorial defense, internal
30 security and peace and order and/or disaster risk reduction management.

31

32 **SEC. 26. Mobilization Centers.** – There shall be established in
33 each province and city as many mobilization centers as needed
34 according to the number and geographical distribution of the Corps,
35 where they will report in case of deployment. The local government
36 units shall provide an office, which shall be known as the Citizen

1 Service Office, which shall handle the administrative aspects of
2 mobilization.

3

4 In case of mobilization, the equipment of the Corps shall be
5 supplied in close coordination with the AFP, the PNP and the OCD, with
6 the end in view of achieving rapid mobilization.

7

8 **SEC. 27. *Lines of Command.*** – Upon deployment, operational
9 control over the Corps shall be vested upon the head of the requesting
10 national government agency or local government unit: *Provided*, that, in
11 case of deployment for purposes of external and territorial defense,
12 when the Corps is mobilized to expand the AFP in the event of war,
13 invasion, rebellion or similar circumstances, operational control shall be
14 vested upon the AFP.

15

16 **SEC. 28. *Expenses of Deployment.*** – The role of the Commission
17 shall be to provide and marshal the required personnel to address
18 national or local contingencies involving external and territorial
19 defense, internal security and peace and order, and national disaster risk
20 reduction and management. Upon deployment, the national government
21 agency or the local government unit to which the Corps is deployed
22 shall shoulder the operational expenses of deployment.

23

24 **SEC. 29. *Operationalization of Deployment.*** – The Mobilization
25 Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, shall promulgate the
26 specific mechanisms by which deployment is efficiently implemented,
27 including the organization of the Corps to be deployed, their territorial
28 assignments, how deployment orders are communicated to each
29 member of the Corps and to which mobilization center they will report.

30

31 **SEC. 30. *Serial Numbers and Registry.*** – Upon completion of the
32 Basic CSTC, the graduates shall be issued individual serial numbers,
33 which will serve as their identification in case of deployment.

34

1 The Commission shall maintain and update a registry/database
2 containing the names of the members of the Corps, their serial numbers,
3 address, contact details and such other information as the Commission
4 may determine. For this purpose, all public and private colleges,
5 universities and learning institutions are hereby mandated to annually
6 transmit their records of the graduates of the CSTC to the Commission,
7 in the form as may be determined by the Commission.

8

9 All graduates of CSTC are required to update their addresses and
10 contact details on file with the Commission as often as necessary. Orders
11 of deployment sent to the addresses and/or through the contact details on
12 file with the Commission shall be sufficient notice for the purpose of
13 Section 37 hereof.

14

15 **SEC. 31. *Termination of Deployment.*** – Upon the expiration of the
16 requested period of deployment, without an extension having been
17 requested and approved by the Commission, the Corps shall be
18 discharged of its duties. The deployment may also be terminated earlier
19 upon a determination by the Commission, in consultation with the
20 requesting national government agency or local government unit, that
21 such deployment is no longer in accordance with the objectives and
22 purposes of this Act.

23

24 **SEC. 32. *Effect on Employment.*** – Deployment of employees in
25 accordance with the provisions of this Act shall not be a ground for
26 dismissal or diminution of any benefit enjoyed by such employees prior
27 to their deployment. Employees shall be entitled to their regular wage
28 or salary during the period of their deployment; *Provided*, that
29 employers shall be entitled to deduct such regular wage or salary from
30 their gross income for the same taxable year that the regular wage or
31 salary was granted.

1

ARTICLE VIII

2

FUNDING OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS

3 **SEC. 33.** *Citizen Service Fund.* – A Citizen Service Fund is hereby
4 established exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and
5 purposes of this Act. The Office of the President shall monitor and
6 evaluate the activities and the balances of the fund.

7

8 **SEC. 34.** *Appropriations.* – All funds previously appropriated for
9 the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the Reserve Officers
10 Training Corps Program of the AFP, established under Republic Act No.
11 7077, as amended, and which will subsequently and hereafter be
12 appropriated for such purpose shall be used exclusively for the
13 implementation of the objectives and purposes of this Act. All funds
14 appropriated for the implementation of the National Service Training
15 Program under Republic Act No. 9163 shall also be used exclusively for
16 the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this Act.

17

18 An initial funding of Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be
19 allocated from the Presidential Social Fund to sustain the operation of
20 the Commission and the implementation of this Act for the first year of
21 its effectivity. Thereafter, the Citizen Service Fund shall be included in
22 the annual General Appropriations Act.

23

24 **SEC. 35.** *School Fees.* – Public colleges, universities and similar
25 learning institutions covered by Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise
26 known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, shall
27 not collect any fee for the CSTC. The training costs shall be included in
28 the annual appropriations of such public colleges, universities and
29 similar learning institutions. In cases of students not eligible to avail of
30 the benefits under Republic Act No. 10931, public colleges, universities
31 and similar learning institutions may collect a training fee of not more
32 than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit.

1 Colleges, universities and similar learning institutions not covered
2 by Republic Act No. 10931 shall have the option of collecting a training
3 fee of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic
4 unit, or of not collecting any fee for the CSTC; Provided that, in the
5 latter case, the actual expenses for the administration of CSTC incurred
6 by such institutions shall be allowed as a deduction from the gross
7 income of such institutions for the same taxable year that the expenses
8 are incurred. The covered institutions shall elect an option and inform
9 the Commission not later than one hundred and twenty (120) days before
10 the start of the school year. Such election may be changed only once
11 every four (4) school years, unless specifically allowed by the
12 Commission.

13

14 For this purpose, the Department of Finance, through the Bureau of
15 Internal Revenue, shall formulate the appropriate regulations for the
16 deduction provided under this section. The Commission shall
17 promulgate budgetary guidelines for all covered institutions to ensure
18 that the budget appropriated, collected or advanced for the training costs
19 are reasonable and sufficient to ensure proper administration of the
20 CSTC.

21

22 **SEC. 36. *Incentives for Students Pursuing Advance CSTC.*** –
23 Students pursuing the Advance CSTC shall be entitled to tuition fee
24 discounts according to the following schedule:

25

26 a) Cadet officers shall be entitled to fifty percent (50%) discount
27 on their tuition fees effective the semester after their completion of the
28 officer qualifying course until their completion of the Basic CSTC
29 provided they serve as officers of the CSTC; and

30

31 b) During their training under the Advance CSTC, they shall be
32 entitled to one hundred percent (100%) discount on their tuition fees.
33 Cadet officers pursuing the Advance CSTC who, for any reason, fail to
34 qualify for benefits under Republic Act No. 10931 are nonetheless
35 entitled to the incentives provided above. For this purpose, all colleges,

1 universities and similar learning institutions shall issue tuition
2 waivers/discounts in favor of the said cadet officers.

3

4 For private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions,
5 the tuition fee waivers/discounts granted pursuant to this section may
6 likewise be claimed as a deduction from the gross income of such
7 institutions for the same taxable year that the discounts/waivers were
8 granted. For income tax-exempt private colleges, universities and similar
9 learning institutions, they may claim reimbursement of the
10 discounts/waivers granted under this section against the Citizen Service
11 Fund created under Section 31 hereof.

12

13 Cadet officers shall likewise be entitled to a uniform allowance,
14 which shall be provided and given in kind by the Commission.

15

16 Upon completion of the Advance CSTC and subject to the taking
17 of the Reserve Officer Qualifying Examination under Section 44 hereof,
18 the graduates of Advance CSTC shall be commissioned as reserve
19 second lieutenant or its equivalent in the AFP, PNP or OCD; Provided,
20 that they shall have obtained their baccalaureate degree courses within
21 four (4) years from such completion, failing which their reserve
22 commission shall be deemed revoked by operation of law.

23

24 The Commission shall ensure that an adequate portion of the
25 Citizen Service Fund is allocated for the above incentives. The budget of
26 the Commission to be submitted to the President shall likewise
27 incorporate such allocation.

28

29 **SEC. 37. Audit of Funds.** – Without prejudice to the audit
30 jurisdiction of the Commission on Audit and the Bureau of Internal
31 Revenue under existing laws and regulations, there shall be created an
32 Audit Division within the Commission with the limited authority to
33 conduct audit investigation on the spending of colleges, universities and
34 similar learning institutions of funds appropriated, collected or
35 advanced for the administration of the CSTC, with the specific purpose

1 of ensuring that such funds are exclusively spent for program
2 implementation and direct training costs.

3

ARTICLE IX

PENAL AND DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS

4

5 **SEC. 38. *Failure to Respond.*** –

6

7 a) Failure to respond to the order of deployment despite notice sent
8 to the address and/or contact details on file with the Commission for
9 external and territorial defense shall be punishable in accordance with
10 the Articles of War, and shall, upon conviction by a court-martial, be
11 punishable by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not
12 more than two (2) years;

13

14 b) Failure to respond to the order of deployment for internal
15 security and peace and order or disaster risk reduction and management
16 shall, upon conviction by a civil court, be punishable as follows:

17 First Offense: One hundred and twenty (120) hours of community
18 service;

19 Second Offense: Two hundred and forty (240) hours of community
20 service; and

21 Third and Subsequent Offenses: Six (6) months imprisonment and
22 four hundred and eighty (480) hours of community service.

23

24 **SEC. 39. *Disciplinary and Corrective Proceedings.*** –

25 Administrative offenses committed by persons involved in or in relation
26 to the implementation of this Act, including the administration of the
27 CSTC and the conduct of the Summer Citizen Service Training Camp,
28 shall be subject to administrative penalties in accordance with the
29 applicable civil service rules. Jurisdiction over these Administrative
30 Offenses shall be vested exclusively on the Disciplinary Board of the
31 Commission.

32

1 Complaints against heads and commandants of DCSTs or their
2 equivalent, officers of the Commission and such employees of the
3 Commission as may be identified in the implementing rules and
4 regulations of this Act, shall be filed with and decided by a Disciplinary
5 Board to be composed of the Chairperson of the Commission, a
6 Commissioner for Training and a Commissioner for Mobilization, both
7 of which shall be selected by the Chairperson. All complaints must be
8 decided by the Disciplinary Board within one hundred and twenty (120)
9 days from filing thereof.

10
11 Complaints against officers and employees of the DCSTs, as well
12 as cadet officers, shall be filed with and decided by the heads of their
13 respective DCSTs. All complaints must be decided by the head of the
14 DCST within thirty (30) days from filing thereof, subject to a one-time
15 extension of thirty (30) days granted by the Chairperson of the
16 Commission. Unless stayed by the Disciplinary Board for meritorious
17 reasons, all decisions of the heads of DSCTs on the complaints shall be
18 immediately executory.

19
20 No motions for reconsideration shall be allowed from the decision
21 of the heads of the DCSTS, but the same may be appealed within fifteen
22 (15) days from receipt thereof by filing a memorandum of appeal with
23 the Disciplinary Board of the Commission. If the penalty imposed by the
24 heads of the DCSTs is dismissal, the decision shall be automatically
25 reviewed to the Disciplinary Board.

26
27 In all cases of appeal by parties and automatic review by the
28 Disciplinary Board, the entire records of the cases shall be transmitted to
29 the Disciplinary Board within thirty (30) days from the promulgation of
30 the decision by the heads of the DCSTs. All appeals and automatic
31 reviews shall be resolved by the Disciplinary Board within one hundred
32 and twenty (120) days from receipt of the entire records of the cases.

33

1 The decisions of the Disciplinary Board shall be final and may be
2 assailed only by a petition for *certiorari* under Rule 65 of the Rules of
3 Court before the Court of Appeals.

4

5 **SEC. 40. Corruption, graft, hazing and other abuses.** – For acts
6 already penalized under existing laws such as corruption, graft, hazing,
7 sexual harassment, and other abuses committed by persons authorized
8 to administer the CSTC and deployment of the Corps, the maximum
9 penalty imposable under existing laws shall be imposed.

10

ARTICLE X

IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

11

12 **SEC. 41. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** – The
13 Commission shall be tasked to formulate and approve the necessary
14 rules and regulations to implement the objectives and purposes of this
15 Act within sixty (60) days from its organization. The rules and
16 regulations shall include provisions on the structure and organization of
17 the Corps under Section 9, the structure and organization of the
18 Department of Citizen Service Training under Section 20, the specific
19 mechanisms for the efficient mobilization and deployment of the Corps
20 under Section 29, the incentives for students pursuing Advance CSTC
21 under Section 35, the assignment of Advance CSTC graduates to the
22 Reserve Forces of the AFP, PNP and OCD under Section 46, and such
23 other matters as the Commission may deem necessary or essential to
24 fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act.

25

ARTICLE XI

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

26

27 **SEC. 42. Period of Implementation.** – To ensure efficient transition
28 and to enable all public and private colleges, universities, and similar
29 learning institutions to adopt the necessary structural changes within
30 their units in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the CSTC shall
31 be administered in all public colleges, universities, and similar learning
32 institutions after the Commission has promulgated the necessary
33 implementing rules and regulations described in Section 39.

1 **SEC. 43. Initial Program Managers.** – The Training Board shall
2 ensure that the initial set of program managers who shall instruct and
3 train the first sets of enrollees in the CSTC in all public and private
4 colleges, universities and similar learning institutions are properly
5 trained and equipped. For this purpose, the Training Board shall
6 develop a Program Managers Training Course (PMTA). All covered
7 institutions are required to send program managers, in number sufficient
8 to implement the CSTC, to undergo and successfully pass the PMTC to
9 be administered and conducted by the Commission.

10
11 **SEC. 44. Current Enrollment under Republic Act No. 9163.** – In all
12 cases, students who are currently enrolled under the curriculum
13 implemented by virtue of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as
14 the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, shall be allowed to
15 finish the curriculum and be deemed to have satisfied the requirement
16 for graduation after completion thereof.

17
18 **SEC. 45. Integration of Existing Reserve Units and Service Corps.**
19 – All reservists included in the Reserved Force created under Republic
20 Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the
21 Philippines Reservist Act, and all members of the National Service
22 Reserve Corps created under Republic Act No. 9163, shall be absorbed
23 under the Citizen Service Corps created under this Act. The Citizen
24 Service Mobilization Board shall determine their ranks and designations
25 within the Citizen Service Corps.

26
27 **SEC. 46. Organization of Reserve Components.** – To complement
28 the existing AFP Reserve Force, the Commission is hereby mandated
29 and authorized to organize the reserve components of the PNP and the
30 OCD within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act. Thereafter,
31 the administration, operational control and funding of the newly
32 organized reserve components shall be vested upon the PNP and the
33 OCD, respectively.

34
35 The Commission shall also develop a Reserve Officer Qualifying
36 Examination to be administered by the Commission to the cadet officers

1 prior to the start of the eight (8th) semester of their Advance CSTC to
2 determine their competencies for the purpose of assigning them as
3 officers of the respective reserve components of the AFP, PNP or OCD.
4 Thereafter, the respective reserve commands of the reserve components
5 shall be responsible for the training and advancement of their reserve
6 officers, where they shall be commissioned as officers.

ARTICLE XII FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 47. Repealing Clause. – Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, is hereby repealed. The relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 7707, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act,, are hereby amended as appropriate. All other laws, orders, rules regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are likewise hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 48. *Separability Clause.* – Any provision of this Act declared unconstitutional shall not affect the validity of the other provisions thereof.

SEC. 49. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,