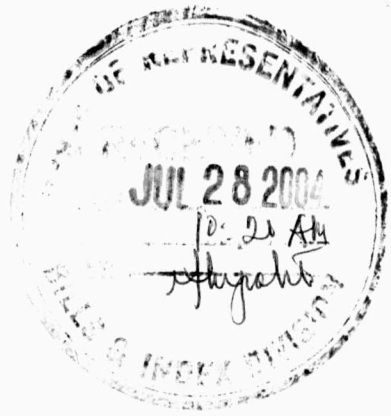


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1800

Introduced by the **Honorable ROILO GOLEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7192 has made the first step in the integration of women in nation - building:

"Any provision to the contrary notwithstanding, consistent with the needs of the services, women shall be accorded equal opportunities for appointment, admission, training, graduation and commissioning in all military or similar schools in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police not later than the fourth academic year following the approval of this Act in accordance with the standards required for men except for those minimum essential adjustments required by physiological differences between sexes (Section 7 of R. A. No. 7192)."

With this law, careerism and professionalism for members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps in the Armed Forces should not depend on the status of the member but on merit and fitness.

We now have women plebes and the curriculum of the PMA has responded to the challenge. With this historical piece of legislation, we have witnessed women applicants topping the entrance examination of this prestigious military academy. Indeed, the glass door has been broken.

In the United States, the various military academies from the West Point to the Naval Academy have welcomed women into their institutions and it combat duties. Though it is a continuing issue in the military establishment, women integration in the military establishment has been made.

The bill proposes to further amend Republic Act No. 3835 on the Women's Auxiliary Corps by allowing the selection of women to combat duties. The amendment offered is anchored on the belief that merit and fitness should be the controlling criteria for women in the Armed Forces. Selection to combat duties should not be based on gender.

Passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

ROILO GOLEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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AN ACT
FURTHER AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THIRTY-EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY-FIVE, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CORPS IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF ITS OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act Numbered Thirty-eight hundred thirty-five is further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 1. There is established in the Armed Forces of the Philippines a Women's Auxiliary Corps which shall perform non-combat administrative duties, COMBAT DUTIES, and such other functions and services as may prescribed by the Secretary National Defense. xxx."

SEC. 2. Section 2 in the same Act is further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. Officers of the Women's Auxiliary Corps shall be commissioned in the Regular and Reserve Forces of the AFP by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of National Defense. All persons appointed officers in the Regular Force pursuant this Section shall be [unmarried] female, native born citizens of the Philippines between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-six years who are holders of Bachelor's degrees from any school, college or university recognized by the government and who possess such additional qualifications as may be prescribed by the Secretary of National Defense: *Provided however*, That the President, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribed, is hereby authorized to commission officers in the Regular Component of the Corps in ranks above Second Lieutenant but not higher than Captain from among the

officers in the active service within one year from the effectivity of this Decree."

SEC. 3. Section 5 of the same Act is further amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 5. Except as otherwise specifically provided, all laws and regulations now or hereafter applicable to commissioned officers and enlisted men of the AFP shall likewise be applicable respectively to commissioned officers and enlisted men of the AFP shall likewise be applicable respectively to commissioned officers and enlisted women of the Women's Auxiliary Corps [*Provided,* That any commissioned officers or enlisted woman who contracts marriage while in the active service shall be automatically separated marriage, already completed at least five (5) years of continuous active military service in the AFP] : *Provided* [*further*], That all laws and regulations on maternity leave now or hereafter applicable to female employees of the government shall be applicable to married members of the Corps: *Provided* [*finally*] *further*, That members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps who were previously separated or discharge honorably by reason of marriage may be called to active duty subject to the conditions aforementioned and in accordance with rules and regulations as the Secretary of National Defense, upon recommendation by the Chief of Staff, AFP may prescribe."

SEC. 4. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and all other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. If any part or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,