

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2543



Introduced by Representative Nerissa Corazon Soon-Ruiz, M.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Reserve Officers Training Corps was envisioned to provide the Armed Forces of the Philippines with a steady supply of officers as well as basic military training to able-bodied young men and women who can be utilized in times of national emergency and calamity.

However, recent scandals have tainted the integrity of the program and some sectors have been calling for its abolition. These controversies may have some basis but the significance of the ROTC to our national defense and security cannot just be overshadowed, necessitating an alternative so as not to cut the steady supply of junior officers in the armed forces.

Through the years, the armed forces has been dominated by officers who are graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. Non-PMAers have little chance of getting sensitive positions but a few graduates of ROTC advance courses however managed to become the exceptions. These officers somehow managed to maintain some sense of balance in the service knowing the strong fraternal ties that bind PMA graduates.

Should the Reserve Officers Training Corps be eventually abolished in the midst of all the pressures brought about by recent controversies involving hazing and the death of Mark Chua, a cadet of the University of Sto. Tomas whose death was

attributed to his superiors in the school's ROTC, there has got to be an alternative program designed to continually produce officers for the AFP outside of the Philippine Military Academy. Hence, this bill.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is respectfully enjoined and requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nerissa Soon-Ruiz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ, M.D.

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES
OF THE PHILIPPINES OFFICERS TRAINING PROGRAM,
APPROPRIATING 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. A training program for future officers in the Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be established for each of the major branches: the Army, Air Force and the Navy.

SECTION 2. Five students for every branch shall be admitted into the program every year, sent into a reputable university at the choice of the General Headquarters to complete any relevant four-year course.

SECTION 3. Full scholarship shall be granted to the qualified candidates covering tuition fees, board and lodging, meals, transportation, clothing and laundry plus a monthly allowance equivalent to the salary of a duty sergeant, all to be provided by the administering branch.

SECTION 4. The administering branches shall formulate their respective scholarship program, providing for funding as well as the guidelines, academic and physical-medical requirements for qualification, discipline, training, continuing education, benefits, disqualification and other relevant matters, PROVIDED that qualified applicants shall be required to spend three summer camps in a military camp to be chosen by the administering branch for the proper military training.

SECTION 5. Immediately upon graduation, successful candidates shall be automatically admitted into the active service of the administering branch with the rank of second lieutenant or ensign and shall be immediately directed to report for duty by the administering branch.

SECTION 6. The sum of Twenty Million Pesos shall be initially appropriated out of the funds of the National Treasury. Subsequent appropriations shall be provided by Congress in the annual budget of the Department of National Defense under the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.