

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2896



Introduced by HONORABLE MIKEY MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
GRANTING THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF
THE PHILIPPINES, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE,
BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AND
BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION A TWENTY PERCENT
(20%) DISCOUNT ON PURCHASES OF FOOD,
TRANSPORTATION AND MEDICINE, PROVIDING
PENALTIES FOR A VIOLATION THEREOF AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill seeks to grant the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and Bureau of Fire Protection (collectively referred to as the "uniformed services") a twenty percent (20%) discount on all of their purchases for food, transportation and medicine from business corporations and partnerships and single proprietorships.

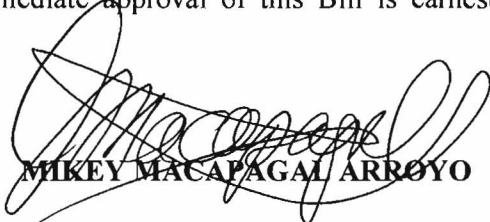
It is desired that our men and women in the uniformed services be given an increase in their salaries, wages, allowances and other benefits in recognition of their dedicated and selfless efforts for the public good. Presently, however, the government is not in a financial position to extend such an increase in view of its prevailing fiscal concerns.

This humble representation submits that despite fiscal issues in government, the buying power of the members of the uniformed services can still be improved via this proposed piece of legislation. The intended discount will significantly counteract the steady increase in the prices of food, transportation and medicine with the end of enhancing the quality of life and work satisfaction of said members vis-à-vis the improvement of public service.

During these challenging times, we must rally business enterprises to extend the discount herein offered to the uniformed services and fully support this measure.

Businesses, while primarily operating for profit, have an undeniable social function and responsibility. In turn, these enterprises can claim such discount as a tax deduction from their income from business operations.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.



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

SECTION 1. *Coverage.* – All members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and Bureau of Fire Protection (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “uniformed services”) are hereby entitled to a twenty percent (20%) discount on their purchases of food, transportation and medicine subject to the following conditions:

- a. They must be members in good standing of their respective departments, bureaus, agencies, bodies, commands or branches of service as may be determined in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations; and
- b. They must be *bona fide* holders of discount cards which will be issued for the purpose.

All business establishments and/or proprietors engaged in the sale of food, transportation and medicine are hereby directed to grant the aforesaid discount to qualified members of the uniformed services.

SECTION 2. *Allowable Tax Deductions.* – The business establishments and/or proprietors covered by this Act may claim the discounts which they have extended to the members of the uniformed services as tax deductions from the income of their business operations.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretaries of the Department of Finance, Department of National Defense, and Department of Interior and Local Government shall, within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the purposes herein stated.

SECTION 4. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. *Penal Clause.* – Any business establishment and/or proprietor which/who shall refuse to grant the discount herein provided to qualified members of the uniformed services shall suffer the following penalties:

a. For Business Corporation or Partnership:

- 1) A fine of Five Hundred Pesos (PhP 500.00) for the first offense;
- 2) A fine of One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,000.00) for the second offense;
- 3) Imprisonment ranging from one day to thirty days or a fine of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) or both, for the third offense; and
- 4) Revocation or cancellation of the business license of the business establishment or proprietor for a period of one year.

The penalty of imprisonment shall be imposed upon the president, partner, manager, sales representative, cashier, or other person of authority in the business corporation or partnership concerned.

b. For Single Proprietorship:

The same penalties provided for a business corporation or partnership shall be imposed upon the single proprietor or owner.

SECTION 6. *Jurisdiction.* – Any violation of this Act shall be within the original and exclusive jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Trial Court or Municipal Trial Court, as the case may be, in the place where the offense was committed and shall be governed by the Rules on Summary Procedure.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved.