

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 737

Introduced by Honorable **EDUARDO R. GULLAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The defense of the State is not only the concern of the government but of the people as well. It is important that we prepare our citizens early by instilling in them the values of patriotism, discipline and love for the country. Under this context, we should required students to undergo compulsory ROTC as a requirement for their graduation. In this way, we prepare a generation of young people who are ready to defend the country in any eventuality.

This bill seeks to reinstate the mandatory Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) for all male tertiary students enrolled in all private and public colleges and universities and similar learning institutions, repaeling Republic Act (RA) No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2010

RA 9163 is aimed at enhancing civic consciousness and defense preparedness in the youth by developing the ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training in any of its three (3) program components. Its various components are specifically designed to enhance the youth's active contribution to the general welfare particularly to the improvement of the quality of education in the country. While the wisdom of the present law (RA 9163) cannot be doubted, the retention of the literacy service and civic welfare components of the program are offered in preparation for the youth to become teachers and social workers, and these are currently offered as separate courses and are thus superfluous.

Restoring ROTC will motivate, train, organize and mobilize our students for national defense preparedness thus positively shaping their character to become more responsible and dependable citizens. Thus, in the event of government's call to defend the State, our people will be well-prepared for the contingency to render personal military or civil service.

Hence, early approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


EDUARDO R. GULLAS

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AN ACT
REINSTATING THE MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) IN ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SIMILAR LEARNING INSTITUTIONS REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP) ACT OF 2010 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - this Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) Act of 2010

SEC. 2. Statement of Policy. - It is the Policy of the State 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. 3. Coverage. - The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) shall be applicable to all male tertiary students enrolled in colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning. It shall form part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and of two-year technical or vocational courses as a requisite for graduation: Provided, That, female students may likewise undergo such ROTC Training on a voluntary basis.

SEC. 4. Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). - The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is hereby declared mandatory for all male students enrolled in colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning. Such colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning shall request for the conduct of military training in their institutions, through the Secretary of National Defense, who shall direct the conduct of military training for the students of such institutions for the purpose of producing enlisted and officer reservists.

The program of instruction shall be prescribed by the Secretary of National Defense and may include instruction to prepare female students for military service: Provided, That such course of instruction shall not exceed two (2) academic years in the case of enlisted reservists and four (4) academic years in the case of officer reservists which shall include as necessary summer or probationary training of not more than sixty (60) consecutive days.

The first two (2) years of ROTC Training, which is mandatory, shall hereafter be referred to as basic ROTC while the second two (2) years after said basis ROTC, which is voluntary, shall hereafter be referred to as advance ROTC. The allocation of ROTC units to the various major services of the AFP shall conform to the projected manpower needs of their respective reserve components.

SEC. 5. Acceptance for Advance ROTC. - Students who volunteer for advance ROTC shall be screened by an ROTC acceptance board which is hereby created for the purpose, composed of the commandant of the ROTC unit, a representative of the school nominated by the school authorities, and a military physician. The student volunteer shall be physically examined for fitness for training and shall further be made to execute in writing a testament that he volunteered for training of his own volition. Where the student is below eighteen (18) years of age, he shall be required to obtain his parent's or guardian's consent. In the case of students volunteering for reserve officer's training, they shall further be subject to competitive examination in order to select the best material. The students undergoing advance ROTC shall be referred to as advance ROTC cadets.

SEC. 6. Persons Disqualified or Exempted. - The following students are disqualified or exempted from the coverage:

- (1) Students who are physically or psychologically unfit as certified to by the medical personnel of the university or institution concerned;
- (2) Those convicted by final judgement of criminal offenses involving moral turpitude;
- (3) Students of colleges, universities and similar learning institutions who have undergone or still undergoing ROTC or similar training as recognized by the military authorities as among those undergoing training to qualify as reservist; and
- (4) Those persons who are members of affiliated units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of National Defense, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. Transitory Provision. - This Act shall apply in the next school year following the approval of this Act. Any student who is currently enrolled under RA No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2008", may continue the program component of their choice under the said law.

SEC. 9. Repealing Clause. - For purposes of this Act, Republic Act No. 9163 is hereby repealed. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, other executive issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,