

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2355**

Introduced by **Kabataan Party-List Rep. Raymond V. Palatino**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Proposals to make the Reserve Officers Training Corps mandatory has occasionally surfaced ever since its mandatory implementation was abolished in 2002. In light of the renewed interest in the discussion of the matter, I would like to propose alternative programs that will similarly seek to foster nationalism and social consciousness among our youth without having to train them in the ways of the military, which is inherently prone to abuses. After all, our Constitution directs the State to uphold the "the vital role of the youth in nation building" through the promotion and protection of their social well-being, among others. It also directs the State to inculcate "patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civil affairs."

In this context, instead of making the ROTC mandatory, I propose that we instead strengthen the social and civic service components of the current National Service Training Program in order to, primarily, inculcate the values of nationalism, social consciousness and responsibility in our youth, and secondarily, to assist our government agencies in the delivery of basic social services to our people. In our present conditions, I believe that what we need as a nation today is not so much an army of young men and women trained in the ways of the military but an army of volunteers and advocates ready to serve and uphold the needs of their communities and the nation as a whole. What the youth needs to defend the nation from today are not so much of foreign aggression but more so of threats of illiteracy and of political and social apathy, and the perpetuation of social inequities that continue to obstruct genuine national progress. Through the strengthening and expansion of the NSTP, the government can truly foster among the youth patriotism, nationalism and selfless service to others as enshrined in the Constitution.


Hon. Raymond V. Palatino
Representative, Kabataan Party-List

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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL AND CIVIC SERVICE COMPONENTS OF THE
NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF ADDITIONAL SOCIAL AND CIVIC SERVICE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO
STUDENTS BY AMENDING AND EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF REPUBLIC ACT
9163 OR THE NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP) ACT OF 2001

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This act shall be known as the “NSTP Reform Act of 2010”

SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9163 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following are hereby defined as follows:

- (a) "National Service Training Program (NSTP)" is a program aimed at enhancing civic AND SOCIAL consciousness and defense AND DISASTER preparedness in the youth by developing the ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training in any of its program components. Its various components are specially designed to enhance the youth's active contribution to the general welfare;
- (b) x x x
- (c) "Literacy Training Service" is a CIVILIAN program designed to train students TO CONDUCT LITERACY TRAINING, LIVELIHOOD TRAINING AND OTHER SIMILAR TRAININGS WITH THE BASIC SECTORS, ESPECIALLY THE URBAN POOR, WORKERS, FARMERS, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, FISHER FOLK, WOMEN AND CHILDREN;

- (D) "GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM" IS A CIVILIAN PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN BASIC SERVICES IN A SPECIFIC COMMUNITY WHICH MAY INCLUDE SYSTEMIC AND RATIONAL TREE PLANTING, STREET CLEANING, WASTE SEGREGATION, TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT, AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES;
- (E) "COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM" IS A CIVILIAN PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION EDUCATION IN SPECIFIC COMMUNITIES;
- (F) "COMMUNITY IMMERSION PROGRAM" IS A CIVILIAN PROGRAM DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF STUDENTS THROUGH EXPOSURE AND IMMERSION AMONG THE BASIC SECTORS, SUCH AS THE RURAL AND URBAN POOR COMMUNITIES, TRADE UNIONS, PEASANTS, FISHER FOLK, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, AMONG OTHERS;
- (G) "DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM" IS A CIVILIAN PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN DISASTER PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS IN THE EVENT OF FLOODS, EARTHQUAKES, FIRE AND OTHER NATURAL AND MAN-MADE CALAMITIES, RESCUE AND RELIEF OPERATIONS, MEDICAL AND HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS, AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES;
- (H) "ECOLOGICAL SERVICES PROGRAM" IS A CIVILIAN PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AWARENESS ACTIVITIES, AMONG OTHERS;
- (I) "HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY" IS A CIVILIAN PROGRAM DESIGNED TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN THE UNDERSTANDING, PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE CIVIL, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, DOCUMENTATION, FACT-FINDING MISSIONS, AND OTHER RELATED ACTIVITIES;

SECTION 3. *Establishment of the National Service Training Program.* Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9163 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. Establishment of the National Service Training Program. – There is hereby established a National Service Training Program, which shall form part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and of at least two (2)-year technical vocational courses and is a requisite for graduation consisting of the following service components:

- (1) x x x
- (2) The Literacy Training Service;

- (3) THE GENERAL COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
- (4) THE COMMUNITY BASED HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM
- (5) THE COMMUNITY IMMERSION PROGRAM
- (6) THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM
- (7) THE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES PROGRAM
- (8) THE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM; AND
- (9) OTHER SIMILAR PROGRAMS THAT THE SCHOOL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SCHOOL'S STUDENT COUNCILS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, MAY IMPLEMENT

The ROTC under the NSTP shall instill patriotism, moral virtues, respect for rights of civilians, and adherence to the Constitution, among others. Citizenship AND SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS training shall be given emphasis in ALL THE NSTP PROGRAM COMPONENTS.

THE SCHOOL, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE SCHOOL'S STUDENT COUNCILS, STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), MAY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT SUCH OTHER PROGRAM COMPONENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY IN CONSONANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

SECTION 4. *NSTP Offering in Higher and Technical-Vocational Educational Institutions.* Section 7 of Republic Act No. 9163 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 7. NSTP Offering in Higher and Technical-Vocational Educational Institutions. – All higher and technical-vocational institutions, public and private, must offer at least TWO of the program components.

In offering the NSTP whether during the semestral or summer periods, clustering of affected students from different educational institutions may be done, taking into account logistics, branch of service and geographical considerations. Schools that do not meet the required number of students to maintain the optional ROTC and any of the NSTP components, or that cannot accommodate all students who choose a certain program, shall allow their students to cross-enroll to other schools. IN NO CASE SHALL THE SCHOOL RESTRICT THE STUDENTS IN THEIR CHOICE OF PROGRAMS BY REASON OF LIMITATIONS IN SLOTS NOR SHALL THE SCHOOL FORCE THE STUDENTS TO TAKE A PROGRAM NOT OF HIS OR HER CHOICE.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules.* The Commission on Higher Education shall have the responsibility of revising the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9163

in order to adapt to the amendments provided for by this Act. It shall consult with other concerned government agencies, student councils and organizations, non-government and other people's organizations, and school associations in drafting the revisions.

SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be incorporated in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional, the remaining sections or provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation and shall be implemented in schools on the semester immediately succeeding the effectivity.

Approved,