

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1426

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This piece of legislation lays down the necessary framework of institutionalizing benefits for military dependents and emphasizes on increasing benefits of the dependents for Health, Housing, Education, and other benefits.

This measure was previously filed by Senator Edgardo Angara in the 15th Congress. Passage of this Bill is earnestly sought now in the 16th Congress.


HARLIN CAST. ABAYON
Representative
First District of Northern Samar

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS,
CREATING THE MILITARY DEPENDENTS WELFARE OFFICE,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the "Military Dependent's Benefits Act of 2013."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the state to ensure the prosperity and well-being of its citizens through policies and programs that provide adequate social services, promote rising standards of living and an improved quality of life for all. Moreover, the state recognizes the vital role of the military in the protection of our country's sovereignty and should therefore ensure the promotion and improvement of the social and economic status of military personnel and their dependents.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act the following shall mean:

- (a) "Military Dependent" - refers to the wife, children and other persons dependent on the military personnel for chief support, duly registered with the Moral and Welfare Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel JI of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.
- (b) "AFP Military Personnel" -shall include all active and incapacitated members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

SEC 4. Educational Benefits. Dependents of military personnel not exceeding four (4) shall be entitled to educational assistance in any of the following educational levels with the indicated amount of support per school year and corresponding durations as follows:

Educational level	Amount of Support (Per year)	Duration
College	P 6,000.00	4/5 years
Vocational	P 4,000.00	2 years
Secondary	P3,000.00	4 years
Elementary	P2,000.00	6 years

SEC 5. Health Benefits. Dependents of Military personnel shall be entitled to the following health benefits to be provided by AFP Health Facilities located in various parts of the country:

- (a) Free Hospitalization, inclusive of professional services, medicine, and medical supplies
- (b) Dispensary or Outpatient Services
- (c) Ambulance services
- (d) Free Dental Services

SECTION 6. Housing Benefits. All Military Personnel and their dependents shall be provided with the necessary housing subject to the eligibility and priority system set by the Major Service/Unit Housing Boards of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Housing, especially Off-Base housing in preparation for retirement will be provided additional funding.

SECTION 7. Commissary Benefits. All Military Dependents shall be entitled to the benefit/privilege of purchasing tax-exempt merchandise from any of the AFPCES units either cash or salary check.

SECTION 8. Other Benefits and Privileges. Military Dependents shall continue to receive all other existing benefits and privileges.

SECTION 9. Creation of the Military Dependents Welfare Office. A Military Dependents Welfare Office is hereby created, herein after referred to as the Office, which shall be attached to the Morale and Welfare Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, J-I Armed Forces of the Philippines, for the coordination and recommendation of policies and programs for military dependents.

SECTION 10. Functions of the Office. The Office shall have the powers and functions:

- (a) To act as coordinating body for all issues and concerns of military dependents.
- (b) To formulate and institutionalize the necessary system and mechanism to ensure the effective and responsive delivery of benefits for military dependents.
- (c) To facilitate and ensure the swift release of benefits to the Military Dependents.
- (d) To review existing benefits and recommend the necessary improvements to ensure better benefits for Military Dependents.
- (e) To annually recommend to the Department of National Defense appropriations for military dependent's benefits under the budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

SECTION 11. Coordination with Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans, Associations Incorporated (AFPSLAI) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement Separation Benefit System (AFPRSBS). The Military Dependents' benefits office shall coordinate with the AFPSLAI and AFPRSBS to facilitate and ensure the release of benefits for military dependents.

SECTION 12. Appropriations. The Department of National Defense shall, every year allocate a portion of their annual budget for the support of this Act.

SECTION 13. Rules and Regulations. The Department of National Defense shall the Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. All Republic Acts, Executive Orders, Presidential Decrees, laws, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any section or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining sections or parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 16. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,