

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6058



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes that law enforcement, crime prevention, and the general maintenance of peace and order in the country sometimes come at a high price - that of the lives of the very men and women who swore to serve and protect as members of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

However, despite the State continuously striving to ensure that its men are fully equipped, trained, and competent to combat, the perils of law enforcement duty remains. Recent developments in our country bring to our attention the noble, yet dangerous task of protecting national safety and internal security. On the 3rd week of fighting in Marawi City between government troops and the Maute group, almost sixty government fighters have been killed in action¹. Nine policemen were gunned down in the first fifty days of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte's intensified campaign against illegal drugs, or one man down every five days². The high death toll among our police forces in the aforementioned incidents is only reminiscent of the bloody Mamasapano massacre that claimed the lives of 44 elite Special Action Forces (SAF) personnel.

¹ Jon Viktor D. Cabuenas (June 11, 2017). *Army releases list of military, police officers killed in Marawi*. GMA News. Retrieved June 13, 2017.

² Pia Ranada, "Duterte mulls reviving PH Constabulary to lead drug war," *Rappler*, 31 January 2017, <http://www.rappler.com/nation/160062-duterte-mulls-reviving-philippine-constabulary-drug-war>.

In light of the foregoing, this bills seeks to institutionalize the educational benefits currently granted under Republic Act No. 6963 to the surviving children of police forces who were killed in line of action by establishing the *PNP Educational Benefits Trust Fund*. The budget for this purpose will no longer be sourced only from the license fees for firearms collected by the PNP as provided under the existing law. Instead, this bill proposes that the *PNP Educational Benefits Trust Fund* shall receive an allocation in the Annual Appropriations, on top of various other sources, to secure its continuance. Educational benefits shall also be expanded to include not only tuition and miscellaneous fees, but reasonable allowances for books, school supplies, transportation, clothing, as well as food from the moment such children are orphaned until their completion of tertiary education.

This bill deems it necessary to prioritize the educational grant to the orphaned children of our fallen police forces in consideration of the increasing cost of education in the Philippines. Additionally, it recognizes education's incomparable rate of return to the individual and the nation as a whole.

This is a counterpart bill to Senate Bill No. 1123 filed by Senator Poe under the same title. Its expeditious approval is most humbly sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "L-RAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS TO THE SURVIVING CHILDREN OF
MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE WHO WERE SLAIN IN
THE LINE OF DUTY, CREATING THE PNP EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FUND,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – The Constitution declares the duty of the State to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all. In light of this, and in recognition of the sacrifices of Philippine National Police (PNP) forces slain in the line of duty, it shall be the policy of the State to provide educational benefits to the orphaned children of the latter.

SECTION 2. *Educational Benefits.* – All surviving children of members of the PNP who are killed in the line of duty shall be entitled to educational benefits from the time they are orphaned up until their completion of tertiary education. The benefits shall include tuition, and reasonable allowances for books, school supplies, transportation, clothing, and food.

SECTION 3. *PNP Educational Benefits Trust Fund.* – There is hereby created a trust fund, to be known as the PNP Educational Benefits Trust Fund, hereinafter referred to as "the Fund", which shall be used exclusively for the

provision of educational benefits under this act and shall be funded through the following:

- a) Annual Appropriations;
- b) Proceeds generated from examination stamps, clearance and certification fees and other service income of the National Police Commission;
- c) Proceeds from license fees for firearms, and fines and penalties collected by the Philippine National Police;
- d) All interest income of the trust fund; and
- e) Grants, donations and endowments from domestic and foreign sources, pursuant to existing laws and regulations.

SECTION 4. *Administration of the Fund.* – The fund shall be administered by the National Police Commission (NPC), in accordance with existing government auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 5. *Annual Report.* – The National Police Commission shall annually submit to the Office of the President, the Senate, and the House of Representatives a report on the disbursement and utilization of the Fund.

SECTION 6. *Non-diminution of Benefits.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed to reduce existing benefits granted under existing laws, decrees, executive orders, or any contract, agreement, or policy between the employer and employee.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within six months from the effectivity of this Act, the NPC, in coordination with PNP, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) Board and other relevant government agencies shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Sections 8, 9 and 10 of Republic Act No. 6963 are hereby amended accordingly. All other laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act, are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,