

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **6149**



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party List Representative Gary C. Alejano**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II Section 3 of the Constitution states that the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State; and whose goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory.

The acquisition of military status by a recruit involves a commitment to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the country, and the Filipino people one has sworn to protect. Thus, it is but proper that stringent guidelines be put in place to ensure that military personnel possess the necessary competence, integrity and character required by their lofty calling.

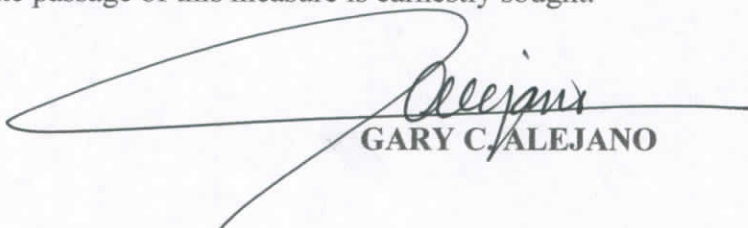
In cognizance of the aforementioned declaration of policy, this measure sets standards and procedures to guarantee the competence of those who are recruited into the AFP through the establishment of a new procurement process for enlisted military personnel while providing for the orderly administrative promotion and separation of soldiers.

Specifically, this bill seeks to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Selectively recruit and retain the best qualified soldiers in the force through evaluation of the soldier's performance and potential for continued service;
2. Rationalize the pension system for all enlisted personnel through compulsory membership to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS); and
3. Ease the transition of soldiers denied retention in the force from military to civilian life through the provision of education, training and scholarships and a commensurate separation pay, as a way of thanking them for their military service. Although a substantial number of the enlisted personnel may not be selected to stay in the regular force, five (5) years of training, experience and practice of military discipline and values can prove relevant in the outside world, and the government must see to it that those years will not go to waste.

It is hoped that the passage of this bill will redound to the following benefits: reduce the high costs in terms of pay and retirement benefits and provide for a long term solution to the looming military pension crisis; and, boost the morale of members of the Armed Forces thereby inspiring dedicated soldiers to consistently meet the AFP's high standards of duty, performance, honor and discipline.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


GARY C. ALEJANO

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE STANDING FORCE OF THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH THE RECRUITMENT AND SPECIAL
ENLISTMENT OF PROVISIONAL ENLISTED PERSONNEL

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** - This act shall be known as the "*Provisional Enlisted*
2 *Personnel Act of 2017*".

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of State Policy.*** - The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the
5 protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the
6 integrity of the national territory. It shall keep a regular force necessary for the security of the
7 State.

8
9 The State duly recognizes the vital role of the military in traditional security matters, such
10 as providing internal and external defense; and, their ever expanding role in non-traditional
11 security matters, such as humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

12
13 It shall, therefore, be the prime concern of the State to ensure that the Armed Forces of
14 the Philippines is equipped with a standing force necessary to adequately and effectively address
15 present and future security threats to the State.

16
17 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** - For the purposes of this Act, the following definition of
18 terms shall apply:

- 19 a. *Regular Enlisted Personnel* - those currently belonging to the following grades:
20 Private (E-1), Private First Class (E-2), Corporal (E-3), Sergeant (E-4), Staff
21 Sergeant (E-5), Technical Sergeant (E-6), Master Sergeant (E-7), and its
22 equivalent in the Air Force, Navy and Marines, *Provided, That* the same are not
23 covered by this Act.

1 b. *Provisional Enlisted Personnel*– An enlisted personnel who, upon entry, has
2 undergone similar training required of regular EP, and is serving in active tour of
3 duty for a term of five (5) years.

4
5 **SEC.4. *Provisional Enlisted Personnel.*** - An increase in the standing force of the Armed
6 Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall be undertaken through the recruitment and special
7 enlistment of twenty thousand (20,000) provisional Enlisted Personnel (EP).

8
9 **SEC. 5. *Tour of Duty.*** - The tour of duty of provisional EP shall be limited to a
10 continuous term of five (5) years, without further reenlistment. *Provided, however,* that the
11 Secretary of National Defense (SND), upon the recommendation of the Chief of Staff of the
12 Armed Forces of the Philippines (CSAFP), may authorize the retention of a maximum of thirty
13 percent (30%) of theprovisional EP for reenlistment as regular EP, in accordance with and
14 subject to Section 13 hereof.

15
16 **SEC. 6. *Qualifications and Disqualifications.*** - The provisional EP must possess the
17 required qualifications and none of the disqualifications for recruitment and enlistment as regular
18 EP to the AFP.

19
20 The provisional EP who are eligible, selected, and authorized to be reenlisted as regular
21 EP must possess the required qualifications and none of the disqualifications required for the
22 reenlistment of regular EP to the AFP.

23
24 **SEC. 7. *Training.*** - The provisional EP shall undergo the same training required of
25 regular EP. *Provided,* that upon graduation from training, the provisional EP shall attain the rank
26 of Private, Airman, Apprentice Seaman/Fireman or Marine. *Provided further,* that all provisional
27 EP who attain the rank of Private, Airman, Apprentice Seaman/Fireman or Marine shall acquire
28 the rights, benefits, obligations, and duties accorded to similarly ranked regular EP, subject to
29 Sections10 and 11 hereof.

30
31 **SEC.8. *Promotion.***- The rules and regulations applicable to regular EP for promotion
32 shall apply to provisional EP. *Provided,* the highest rank attainable by the provisional EP shall be
33 that of Private 1st Class, Airman 2nd Class, Seaman/Fireman 2nd Class, or Marine 2nd Class.
34 *Provided further,* that provisional EP who attain the rank of Private 1st Class, Airman 2nd Class,
35 Seaman/Fireman 2nd Class, or Marine 2nd Class shall acquire the rights, benefits, obligations,
36 and duties accorded to similarly ranked regular EP, subject to Sections10 and 11 hereof.

1 **SEC. 9. Salary.** - The amount of salary paid to provisional EP, regardless of rank, shall
2 be based on the current pay grades of similarly ranked regular EP; and, shall be scaled
3 accordingly to accommodate any increase thereto.

4 **SEC.10. Termination and Separation.-** All provisional EP shall be immediately
5 terminated from their service at the end of their tour of duty, except for those who are reenlisted
6 as regular EP under Section 13 hereof. *Provided*, the provisional EP, prior to the end of their tour
7 of duty, may be separated from their service on the same grounds as regular EP. *Provided*
8 *further*, the provisional EP, whether terminated or separated from their service, shall not be
9 entitled to receive the retirement and separation pay or benefits provided for in Presidential
10 Decree 1638, as amended by Presidential Decree 1650. *Provided, furthermore*, that provisional
11 EPs who fail to meet the qualifications for retention as regular EPs, shall receive a separation
12 gratuity pay equivalent to one month of his base and longevity pay on the date of separation for
13 every year of service.

14
15 **SEC. 11. Training and Educational Benefits.** - A provisional EP who fail to meet the
16 qualifications for retention as a regular EP shall be entitled to receive training and educational
17 benefits in accordance with the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Technical
18 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and Commission on Higher Education
19 (CHED).

20
21 **SEC. 12. Preference and Priority in Hiring.** – In recognition of their contribution to the
22 safety and security of the State, enlisted personnel released from active duty in accordance with
23 Section 10 shall be given preference and priority in hiring in the Civil Service, particularly in the
24 law enforcement services and related agencies (i.e., Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire
25 Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency,
26 National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Coast Guard, the intelligence and law enforcement
27 services of the Bureau of Customs, Commission on Immigration, etc.) and the field operations
28 offices of National Government Agencies (NGA) and Government Owned and Controlled
29 Corporations (GOCC) , as well as in the private sector, particularly in the security and services
30 sectors, where the training, skills and discipline they acquired as former members of the AFP are
31 relevant and/or appropriate.

32
33 **SEC. 13. Reenlistment as Regular Enlisted Personnel.** -The requirements for the
34 eligibility and the process of selection of provisional EP for reenlistment as regular EP shall be in
35 accordance with the rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Department of National
36 Defense (DND) and AFP under Section 16 hereof. The actual number of provisional EP to be
37 reenlisted as regular EP shall be determined by the CSAFP based on the vacancies and

1 requirements of the AFP for recruitment and enlistment of regular EP during the year the tour of
2 duty of the provisional EP ends.

3
4 Provisional EP who are eligible, selected, and authorized to be reenlisted as regular EP
5 shall retain the highest rank they previously held at the end of their tour of duty as provisional
6 EP; and, they shall acquire the rights, benefits, obligations, and duties accorded to similarly
7 ranked regular EP, including the retirement and separation pay or benefits provided for in
8 Presidential Decree 1638, as amended by Presidential Decree 1650.

9
10 **SEC. 14. Compulsory Membership in the GSIS.** – Membership in the Government
11 Service Insurance System (GSIS) shall be compulsory for all provisional EP, and all reenlisted
12 regular EP of the AFP under Section 13 hereof. *Provided*, That it shall be mandatory for the
13 member and the AFP to pay the monthly contributions similar to the schedule of members of the
14 national government agencies. *Provided, further*, That it shall be mandatory and compulsory for
15 the AFP to include the payment of contributions in its annual appropriations.

16
17 **SEC. 15. Special Trust Fund; Appropriations.**– There is hereby created a Special Trust
18 Fund, which shall be managed by the GSIS, out of which the gratuity separation pay due to
19 separated military personnel under this Act shall be paid. Subject to actuarial studies, the DND
20 shall include in its annual budget such amounts as may be necessary to build up said Special
21 Trust Fund to ensure that there would be adequate funds to pay the separation gratuity pay of
22 military personnel separated under this Act as the same would fall due. Said amounts shall be
23 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

24
25 **SEC. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations.**– Within sixty (60) days from the
26 enactment of this Act, the DND and the AFP shall issue the specific Implementing Rules and
27 Regulations as may be necessary to ensure the efficient implementation of the provisions of this
28 Act.

29
30 Likewise within a period of sixty (60) days from the enactment of this Act, the Civil
31 Service Commission (CSC) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in
32 coordination and consultation with the DND and the AFP and the Governance Commission for
33 Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GCG), shall issue the appropriate
34 memorandum order(s) and/or circular(s) as may be necessary and appropriate to ensure the
35 proper enforcement and effective implementation of the priority and preference in the hiring of
36 separated military personnel as mandated in Section 10 hereof.

1 **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.***- If any provision of this Act is declared invalid by a
2 competent court, the other provisions not affected by such declaration of invalidity shall continue
3 to be in force and effect.

4
5 **SEC.18. *Repealing Clause.***- All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts
6 thereof, specifically inconsistent with any provision of this Act shall be deemed repealed,
7 amended or modified accordingly.

8
9 **SEC.19. *Effectivity.*** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the date of its
10 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,