

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2093**



Introduced by Representative Ferdinand L. Hernandez

**AN ACT INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE,
ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE CITIZEN
SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

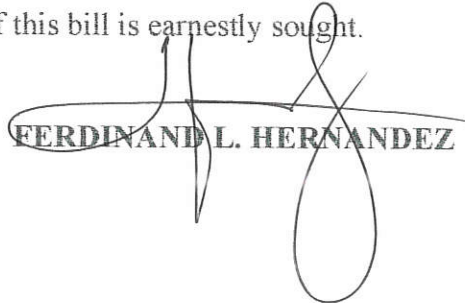
In recent times, numerous contingencies and emergencies including national and internal security threats have made it indispensable for the country to draw forth from the well-spring of its most vital resource – the youth.

The 1987 Constitution, through Article II, Section 13, states the indispensable role of the youth in nation-building and encourages the State to inculcate in them patriotism and nationalism and to encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. In line with the constitutional vision, this bill seeks to establish a Citizen Service Training Course (CSTC) and lays down a comprehensive framework for the training and mobilization of the youth.

Through the CSTC, a Basic Citizen Service Training Course shall be mandatory for all tertiary-level students enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses in all public and private college, universities, and other similar learning institutions. The CSTC retains external and territorial defense training as a foundational component. The course also expands its scope by providing trainings in internal security and peace and order as well as disaster risk reduction and management, which integrates the flexibility provided by the National Service Training Program (NSTP), created through Republic Act No. 9163.

Abuse and corrupt practices that have long haunted the ROTC and NSTP programs are also addressed in this bill through the adoption of measures, which include the creation of the Citizen Service Mobilization Commission that is empowered to conduct an audit of the utilization of the fees collected for the CSTC, and to investigate reported incidents of corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment, and other abuses in the program.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FERDINAND L. HERNANDEZ

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

**ARTICLE I
TITLE**

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Citizen Service Act.”

**ARTICLE II
DECLARATION OF POLICY**

SECTION 2. Statement of Policy. – It shall be the policy of the State:

- a) To institutionalize the vital role of the youth in nation-building, promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being; to inculcate in them patriotism and nationalism; and to encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs;
- b) To constitute the youth into a major component of the citizen reserve envisioned in the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, which shall undergo training and may be called upon to defend the State and to render personal military or civil service under conditions provided by law; and
- c) To train, equip and organize the youth, within the current frameworks of national and territorial defense, law enforcement and peace and order and national disaster risk reduction and management, to prepare them for rapid mobilization at the soonest possible time in order to address national and/or local contingencies which may require manpower beyond the capabilities of existing national government agencies or local government units.

ARTICLE III

INSTITUTION OF CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE

SECTION 3. Basic Citizen Service Training Course. – There is hereby instituted a Basic Citizen Service Training Course (Basic CSTC) which shall form part of the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and all technical vocational courses (which may be completed in at least two (2) years).

The Basic CSTC shall have the following components:

- a) External and Territorial Defense Training;
- b) Internal Security and Peace and Order Training; and
- c) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Training.

The Basic CSTC shall be divided into four (4) training modules to be administered for at least four (4) semesters over two (2) school years, unless otherwise allowed by the Citizen Service Training Board. It shall include at least sixty-four (64) hours of lecture and sixteen (16) hours of practical training every semester, and at least sixteen (16) hours of field exercises every year.

The trainees, who shall be referred to as cadets, shall be organized by squads, platoons, companies, battalions, brigades and divisions similar to military units. Military-type of discipline, organization and cadet movement shall be observed in the conduct of the Basic CSTC. The Basic CSTC shall instill upon the youth the ideals of patriotism, nationalism and respect for human rights.

Except for justifiable causes and upon the issuance of a Certificate of Exemption by the Citizen Service Mobilization Commission (Commission), the Basic CSTC must be completed, as far as practicable, within the first two (2) years of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational courses. The completion of the Basic CSTC shall be a prerequisite for enrollment to the third year of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational courses.

When the Basic CSTC is allowed to be taken beyond the first two (2) years of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational courses, completion of the Basic CSTC shall be a requisite for graduation in the said courses.

SECTION 4. Summer Citizen Service Training Camp. – In addition to the requirements under Section 3, the Basic CSTC shall require for its completion attendance in a Summer Citizen Service Training Camp (Summer CSTC), which shall consist of at least thirty (30) days of direct instruction and training to be administered in two (2) tranches of fifteen (15) days a year and, except for justifiable causes, must be completed within the first two (2) years of all baccalaureate degree courses and technical vocational courses.

The Summer CSTC shall be conducted within the campuses or facilities of all public and private colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions. Should it be determined by the said public and private colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions that it is impracticable to conduct the Summer CSTC in their respective campuses or facilities, they should immediately make the same known to the Commission's Citizen Service Training

Board (Training Board), which upon the proposal of the public and private colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions, shall designate such safe and appropriate venues for the Summer CSTC. As far as practicable, the venue shall be proximate to the campuses or facilities of the public and private colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions.

The Program of Instruction for the Summer CSTC shall be developed by the Training Board and shall focus on practical and field training exercises. It shall be administered under the control and supervision of the Commission, which may tap the personnel and expertise of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD). For such purpose, the AFP, the PNP and the OCD are hereby directed to make its camps and premises, training facilities and equipment, and pool of trainers available to the Commission for the efficient, effective and realistic conduct of the Summer CSTC.

SECTION 5. Coverage. – All tertiary-level students, male and female, enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses (which may be completed in at least two (2) years) in all public and private colleges, universities, or similar learning institutions shall be required to undergo the Basic CSTC.

SECTION 6. Special CSTC for Students under Specific Circumstances. – There shall be no exemptions from the Basic CSTC. However, the Commission shall prescribe Special CSTC to address the peculiar needs and circumstances of students under the following circumstances:

- a) Those who are classified and officially registered as persons with disabilities;
- b) Those whose religious beliefs prohibit the use of firearms in rendering service to the country; and
- c) Those who have been convicted by final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude;

Provided, that foreign citizens enrolled in baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses where CSTC is required shall also undergo a Special CSTC prescribed by the Commission that would deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Philippines, its people, society, culture and government, and harness their potential as bridges to improve, their respective countries' ties with the Philippines.

SECTION 7. Advance CSTC. – There is also hereby instituted an Advance CSTC which may be pursued by all graduates of the Basic CSTC, except those who have been convicted by final judgment of crimes involving moral turpitude; and who have successfully finished a one-semester Officer Qualifying Course within the first two (2) years of their baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses. The Officer Qualifying Course shall include leadership and management training, which will equip the graduates thereof to themselves administer the Basic CSTC, shall be completed in one (1) semester; and shall consist of at least one hundred and twenty-eight (128) hours of lecture, practical training and field exercises in external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management. Graduates of the Officer Qualifying Course, who shall be referred to as cadet officers, shall compose the Officer Corps of the Basic CSTC in each campus and shall administer the conduct of the Basic CSTC of each campus under the

administrative control and supervision of the Department of Citizen Service Training (DCST) of the respective campuses.

It shall be mandatory for all public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions offering baccalaureate degree courses to offer the Advance CSTC in all their campuses, which shall have a duration of at least eight (8) semesters over four (4) school years, which shall include the first two (2) years of Basis CSTC, unless otherwise allowed by the Training Board.

However, enrolment thereunder shall be voluntary. Graduates of the Advance CSTC shall be posted to leadership roles in the Citizen Service Corps (Corps) established herein.

SECTION 8. Preparatory CSTC. – There is further hereby instituted a Preparatory CSTC which shall be administered and implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd) to all students, male and female, enrolled in Grades 11 and 12 in all public and private learning institutions. The Preparatory CSTC shall be an introductory/orientation course to the Basic CSTC and is hereby declared a requirement for enrollment in all baccalaureate degree courses or technical vocational courses (which may be completed in at least two (2) years) in all public and private colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions.

ARTICLE IV ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS

SECTION 9. Citizen Service Corps. – There is hereby established a Citizen Service Corps which shall be composed of all the graduates of CSTC and may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and the local government units in their functions related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

ARTICLE V CREATION OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION COMMISSION

SECTION 10. Citizen Service Mobilization Commission. – There is hereby created a Citizen Service Mobilization Commission, which shall oversee the CSTC and the Corps, and implement the objectives and purposes of this Act. The President shall appoint the Chairperson and the four (4) Commissioners as provided herein within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. The Commission must organize itself in accordance with the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from the appointment of all its members. The Commission shall be an attached agency of the Office of the President.

The Commission shall ensure the full implementation of this Act within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 11. Composition of the Commission. – The Commission shall be composed of a Chairperson and four (4) Commissioners, namely, two (2) Commissioners for Training and two (2) Commissioners for Mobilization. The Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND), the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), the Chairperson of the Commission of Higher Education (CHED), and the Director General

of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), or their duly-authorized representatives with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary for the DND and the DILG, Commissioner for the CHED, or Board Member for the TESDA, shall be ex-officio voting members of the Commission.

The Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be citizens and residents of the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, of good moral character, of recognized probity and independence, and, through their training, experience, and education, must have distinguished themselves as best-suited to discharge the duties of their offices. They must not have been candidates for any elective national or local office in the immediately preceding elections, whether regular or special. The Chairperson and the Commissioners, who shall have the rank equivalent of cabinet secretary and undersecretary, respectively, shall be appointed by the President.

SECTION 12. Quorum. – Five (5) members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of at least a majority of those present, there being a quorum, shall be necessary for the adoption of any rule, ruling, order, resolution, decision, or other acts of the Commission; Provided, that the affirmative vote of at least five (5) members of the Commission shall be necessary for the exercise of the powers and functions of the Commission under Section 15(a), (d), (f), (j), and (k), as well as those under Section 20, paragraph 4, Section 29, and Section 31.

SECTION 13. Term of Office. – The term of office of the Chairperson and the Commissioners shall be seven (7) years, without reappointment. Of those first appointed, the Chairperson and the two (2) Commissioners first to be appointed shall hold office for seven (7) years, while the two (2) Commissioners last to be appointed shall hold office for five (5) years. Appointment to any vacancy shall only be for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

SECTION 14. Compensation and Other Emoluments of the Members and Employees of the Commission. – The compensation and other emoluments of the members and employees of the Commission shall be exempted from the coverage of Republic Act No. 6758, otherwise known as the Salary Standardization Act. For this purpose, the compensation and other emoluments of the Chairperson, Commissioners and employees of the Commission shall be fixed based on an objective classification system, taking into consideration the importance and responsibilities attached to their respective positions, and shall be submitted to the President for his approval.

SECTION 15. Powers of the Commission. – The Commission shall have the following powers:

- a) Design, prescribe and/or approve the programs of instruction for the CSTC, including special courses for students under specific circumstances;
- b) Ensure the proper administration of the CSTC;
- c) Exercise supervision and control over all agencies, offices and persons, directly implementing the CSTC;
- d) Recommend to the President the general, nationwide or large-scale mobilization of the Corps;

- e) Approve, as required under this Act, the deployment of a limited number of the Corps to national government agencies and to local government units to assist in regional, provincial, city, municipal or barangay level disasters, emergencies and other contingencies;
- f) Approve the regular deployment of a limited number of the Corps to the AFP, the PNP and the OCD to serve as reservists and active duty cadres to meet the peace time stand-by reserve requirements of said agencies;
- g) Investigate or secure the services or assistance of the appropriate agencies to investigate cases of corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment and other abuses in the conduct of the CSTC, mobilization of the Corps and implementation of this Act;
- h) Issue serial numbers to all graduates of the CSTC;
- i) Maintain and update a registry/database of all cadets and cadet officers of the CSTC;
- j) Promulgate the appropriate rules and regulations, in accordance with Section 39 hereof, to fully implement the provisions of this Act;
- k) Appoint, fix the compensation and determine the status, qualifications, and duties of the staff of the Commission. The members of the technical staff, except those performing purely clerical functions, shall possess at least a baccalaureate degree;
- l) Generate and utilize resources to fully implement the provisions of this Act;
- m) Audit the utilization of funds appropriated, collected or advanced for the implementation of this Act; and
- n) Exercise such other powers as are necessary or essential to fully implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 16. Organization of the Commission. – The Commission shall have a Citizen Service Training Board and a Citizen Service Mobilization Board (Mobilization Board).

SECTION 17. Citizen Service Training Board. – The Training Board shall be composed of the Chairperson as head, the two (2) Commissioners for Training, the Chairperson of the CHED and the Director General of the TESDA, or their duly authorized representatives, which shall be a Commissioner for the CHED and a Board Member for the TESDA. The Secretary of the DepEd, or his duly authorized representative, with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary, shall be a consulting non-voting member of the Training Board.

The Training Board shall come up with the initial CSTC Programs of Instruction, including the Basic CSTC, the Advance CSTC, the Program Managers Training Course and the Officer Qualifying Course (CSTC POI), within sixty (60) days from the organization of the Commission. For this purpose, the Training Board is hereby directed to tap the technical expertise of the AFP, the PNP and the OCD, the expertise and experience of stakeholders in both public and private sector, and the curriculum development expertise of the CHED, the TESDA and the DepEd, as well as public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions. The CSTC POI shall be subject to the approval of the Commission. The Training Board shall also supervise and see to the continuous development of the CSTC POI.

Thereafter, the Commission, through the Training Board, shall ensure the incorporation of the CSTC POI in the curricula of all baccalaureate degree courses and all technical vocational courses (which may be completed in at least two (2) years) offered by public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions, and in the curricula of Grade 11 and Grade 12 in all public and private learning institutions.

The Training Board shall adopt guidelines, which shall be incorporated in the rules and regulations of the Commission, for the organization of a DCST in every public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions. For colleges and universities with multiple campuses, there shall be a DCST for each campus.

SECTION 18. Citizen Service Mobilization Board. – The Mobilization Board shall be composed of the Chairperson as head, the two (2) Commissioners for Mobilization, the Secretary of the DND and the Secretary of the DILG, or their duly authorized representatives with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary. The Secretary of the Department of Social Work and Development, or his duly authorized representatives with a rank of at least Assistant Secretary, the Chief of Staff of the AFP and the Director General of the PNP, or their duly authorized representatives with a rank of at least Brigadier General, Commodore or Chief Superintendent, as the case may be, shall be consulting non-voting members of the Mobilization Board.

The Mobilization Board shall administer the process of deployment of the Corps in accordance with the provisions of this Act. From time to time as manpower and training resources may allow, the Mobilization Board may call for retraining of the Corps to maintain and enhance its level of competency and readiness for mobilization. For this purpose, the Mobilization Board may call for training mobilizations for periods not exceeding fifteen (15) days.

SECTION 19. Annual Reports. – The Commission shall regularly publish an annual report containing a list of its accomplishments, status of its operations, number and demography of the Corps, assessment of readiness for mobilization and the incidence and details of each mobilization for the year concerned. The annual report shall also include the results of the audit investigation on the spending of funds appropriated, collected or advanced for the implementation of the provisions of this Act, as referred to under Section 31, Section 32 and Section 33 hereof.

ARTICLE VI

DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE TRAINING COURSE

SECTION 20. Department of Citizen Service Training. – Within each campus of their respective institutions, all public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions shall establish and maintain, in accordance with the structure and organization provided in the rules and regulations of the Commission, an autonomous Department of Citizen Service Training, which shall be tasked with the primary duty and responsibility of fully implementing the CSTC in their respective campuses. The DCST shall have an overall department head, a commandant for external and territorial defense, a commandant for internal security and peace and order, and a commandant for disaster risk reduction management.

The head of each campus and/or learning institution shall appoint a department head within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of the rules and regulations implementing this Act. Within thirty (30) days from acceptance of his appointment, the department head shall submit a list of three (3) names for each commandant position from which the head of each campus and/or learning institution shall appoint, within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the lists, the three (3) commandants.

The DCST shall be directly under the office of the head of each campus and/or learning institution. It shall be civilian in character and shall administer the CSTC. However, it is understood that personnel of the AFP, PNP and the OCD shall not be disqualified from being appointed as heads of the DCST.

The head of the DCST shall be chosen by the head of the learning institution from among candidates who by reason of their training, experience and/or education in the fields of external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order and/or disaster risk reduction management is best qualified to be the head of the DCST. The Commission shall have the authority to prescribe the qualifications for the head of DCST.

Should a learning institution fail to organize a DCST and/or appoint a DCST head within the period stated above, the Commission shall cause the establishment of a DCST and/or appoint the head thereof.

SECTION 21. The University of the Philippines as Curriculum and Development Center. – The University of the Philippines (U.P.), as the National University, through its various DCSTs in each of its campuses, shall serve as the CSTC POI research and development center for the Commission. For this purpose, there is hereby created a U.P. Center for Citizen Service Training (CCST), which shall be within the U.P. System and under the Office of the U.P. President. It shall have the following powers:

- a) Undertake studies, surveys, and research to assess and/or enhance the implementation of the CSTC;
- b) Design and develop CSTC subjects and modules for the review and approval of the Commission;
- c) Pilot test CSTC subjects, modules and programs it designed and developed within the U.P. system for purposes of assessment; and
- d) Subject to the approval of the U.P. President and the U.P. Board of Regents, prepare the plantilla of the U.P. CCST.

The governing body of the U.P. CCST shall be an executive committee composed of the department heads of the various DCSTs in each campus of the U.P. System. The chairperson of the executive committee shall be elected for a term of three (3) years from among the members of the executive committee.

The U.P. CCST shall be located at the U.P. Diliman DCST.

SECTION 22. Development of the CSTC POI. – The U.P. CCST shall propose improvements to the CSTC POI, which shall undergo pilot-testing in each of the U.P. campuses. The pilot-tested CSTC POI shall be submitted for the assessment, consideration

and approval of the Commission within thirty (30) days from the last day of the pilot-testing semester.

The Commission and the U.P. CCST shall ensure the participation of third-party stakeholders and experts in the fields of external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management in the continued development and improvement of the CSTC POI.

ARTICLE VII

DEPLOYMENT OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS

SECTION 23. Requests for Deployment. – The Corps may be called upon and mobilized to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities and the local government units in their functions related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management, through requests for deployment by the heads of such national government agencies or local government units submitted to the Mobilization Board. The requests shall contain a justification for the deployment of the Corps and shall contain information as may be required by the Commission, including the nature of the national or local contingencies to be addressed, the purpose of the requested deployment, the number of personnel requested to be deployed and the period of deployment.

SECTION 24. Evaluation of the Requests for Deployment. – The Mobilization Board shall evaluate the requests for deployment. When the number of personnel requested does not exceed one hundred and fifty (150) and the period of deployment does not exceed sixty (60) days, the Mobilization Board shall decide whether to approve or disapprove the request within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt thereof. When the number of personnel requested exceeds one hundred and fifty (150) or the period of deployment exceeds sixty (60) days, the Mobilization Board shall make a recommendation to the Commission within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the request. The Commission shall decide whether to approve or disapprove the request within twenty-four (24) hours from receipt of the recommendation of the Mobilization Board.

In case of the approval of the request for deployment, the Mobilization Board shall issue an Order of Deployment requiring the Corps, or a number thereof, to assist the national government, its agencies and instrumentalities and the local government units in their functions related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and disaster risk reduction and management.

SECTION 25. Deployment in Case of a Declaration of a State of War, State of Lawless Violence or State of Calamity; Nationwide Mobilization. – In case of a declaration of a state of war, state of lawless violence or state of calamity, the Commission may motu proprio recommend the mobilization of the Corps to the President of the Philippines. The President of the Philippines, by himself, shall also have the power to order the mobilization of the Corps to respond to national or local contingencies related to external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order and/or disaster risk reduction management.

SECTION 26. Mobilization Centers. – There shall be established in each province and city as many mobilization centers as needed according to the number and geographical

distribution of the Corps, where they will report in case of deployment. The local government units shall provide an office, which shall be known as the Citizen Service Office, which shall handle the administrative aspects of mobilization.

In case of mobilization, the equipment of the Corps shall be supplied in close coordination with the AFP, the PNP and the OCD, with the end in view of achieving rapid mobilization.

SECTION 27. Lines of Command. – Upon deployment, operational control over the Corps shall be vested upon the head of the requesting national government agency or local government unit: Provided, that, in case of deployment for purposes of external and territorial defense, when the Corps is mobilized to expand the AFP in the event of war, invasion, rebellion or similar circumstances, operational control shall be vested upon the AFP.

SECTION 28. Expenses of Deployment. – The role of the Commission shall be to provide and marshal the required personnel to address national or local contingencies involving external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order, and national disaster risk reduction and management. Upon deployment, the national government agency or the local government unit to which the Corps is deployed shall shoulder the operational expenses of deployment.

SECTION 29. Operationalization of Deployment. – The Mobilization Board, subject to the approval of the Commission, shall promulgate the specific mechanisms by which deployment is efficiently implemented, including the organization of the Corps to be deployed, their territorial assignments, how deployment orders are communicated to each member of the Corps and to which mobilization center they will report.

SECTION 30. Serial Numbers and Registry. – Upon completion of the Basic CSTC, the graduates shall be issued individual serial numbers, which will serve as their identification in case of deployment.

The Commission shall maintain and update a registry/database containing the names of the members of the Corps, their serial numbers, address, contact details and such other information as the Commission may determine. For this purpose, all public and private colleges, universities and learning institutions are hereby mandated to annually transmit their records of the graduates of the CSTC to the Commission, in the form as may be determined by the Commission.

All graduates of CSTC are required to update their addresses and contact details on file with the Commission as often as necessary. Orders of deployment sent to the addresses and/or through the contact details on file with the Commission shall be sufficient notice for the purpose of Section 37 hereof.

SECTION 31. Termination of Deployment. – Upon the expiration of the requested period of deployment, without an extension having been requested and approved by the Commission, the Corps shall be discharged of its duties. The deployment may also be terminated earlier upon a determination by the Commission, in consultation with the requesting national government agency or local government unit, that such deployment is no longer in accordance with the objectives and purposes of this Act.

SECTION 32. Effect on Employment. – Deployment of employees in accordance with the provisions of this Act shall not be a ground for dismissal or diminution of any benefit enjoyed

by such employees prior to their deployment. Employees shall be entitled to their regular wage or salary during the period of their deployment; Provided, that employers shall be entitled to deduct such regular wage or salary from their gross income for the same taxable year that the regular wage or salary was granted.

ARTICLE VIII

FUNDING OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE CORPS

SECTION 33. Citizen Service Fund. – A Citizen Service Fund is hereby established exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this Act. The Office of the President shall monitor and evaluate the activities and the balances of the Fund.

SECTION 34. Appropriations. – All funds previously appropriated for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program of the AFP, established under Republic Act No. 7077, as amended, and which will subsequently and hereafter be appropriated for such purpose shall be used exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this Act. All funds appropriated for the implementation of the National Service Training Program under Republic Act No. 9163 shall also be used exclusively for the implementation of the objectives and purposes of this Act.

An initial funding of Fifty million pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be allocated from the Presidential Social Fund to sustain the operation of the Commission and the implementation of this Act for the first year of its effectivity. Thereafter, the Citizen Service Fund shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 35. School Fees. – Public colleges, universities and similar learning institutions covered by Republic Act No. 10931, otherwise known as the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act, shall not collect any fee for the CSTC. The training costs shall be included in the annual appropriations of such public colleges, universities and similar learning institutions. In cases of students not eligible to avail of the benefits under Republic Act No. 10931, public colleges, universities and similar learning institutions may collect a training fee of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit.

Colleges, universities and similar learning institutions not covered by Republic Act No. 10931 shall have the option of collecting a training fee of not more than fifty percent (50%) of the tuition fee per academic unit, or of not collecting any fee for the CSTC; Provided that, in the latter case, the actual expenses for the administration of CSTC incurred by such institutions shall be allowed as a deduction from the gross income of such institutions for the same taxable year that the expenses are incurred. The covered institutions shall elect an option and inform the Commission not later than one hundred and twenty (120) days before the start of the school year. Such election may be changed only once every four (4) school years, unless specifically allowed by the Commission.

For this purpose, the Department of Finance, through the Bureau of Internal Revenue, shall formulate the appropriate regulations for the deduction provided under this section. The Commission shall promulgate budgetary guidelines for all covered institutions to ensure that the budget appropriated, collected or advanced for the training costs are reasonable and sufficient to ensure proper administration of the CSTC.

SECTION 36. Incentives for Students Pursuing Advance CSTC. – Students pursuing the Advance CSTC shall be entitled to tuition fee discounts according to the following schedule:

- a) Cadet officers shall be entitled to fifty percent (50%) discount on their tuition fees effective the semester after their completion of the officer qualifying course until their completion of the Basic CSTC provided they serve as officers of the CSTC; and
- b) During their training under the Advance CSTC, they shall be entitled to one hundred percent (100%) discount on their tuition fees. Cadet officers pursuing the Advance CSTC who, for any reason, fail to qualify for benefits under Republic Act No. 10931 are nonetheless entitled to the incentives provided above. For this purpose, all colleges, universities and similar learning institutions shall issue tuition waivers/discounts in favor of the said cadet officers.

For private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions, the tuition fee waivers/discounts granted pursuant to this section may likewise be claimed as a deduction from the gross income of such institutions for the same taxable year that the discounts/waivers were granted. For income tax-exempt private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions, they may claim reimbursement of the discounts/waivers granted under this section against the Citizen Service Fund created under Section 31 hereof.

Cadet officers shall likewise be entitled to a uniform allowance, which shall be provided and given in kind by the Commission.

Upon completion of the Advance CSTC and subject to the taking of the Reserve Officer Qualifying Examination under Section 44 hereof, the graduates of Advance CSTC shall be commissioned as reserve second lieutenant or its equivalent in the AFP, PNP or OCD; Provided, that they shall have obtained their baccalaureate degree courses within four (4) years from such completion, failing which their reserve commission shall be deemed revoked by operation of law.

The Commission shall ensure that an adequate portion of the Citizen Service Fund is allocated for the above incentives. The budget of the Commission to be submitted to the President shall likewise incorporate such allocation.

SECTION 37. Audit of Funds. – Without prejudice to the audit jurisdiction of the Commission on Audit and the Bureau of Internal Revenue under existing laws and regulations, there shall be created an Audit Division within the Commission with the limited authority to conduct audit investigation on the spending of colleges, universities and similar learning institutions of funds appropriated, collected or advanced for the administration of the CSTC, with the specific purpose of ensuring that such funds are exclusively spent for program implementation and direct training costs.

ARTICLE IX PENAL AND DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS

SECTION 38. Failure to Respond. – a) Failure to respond to the order of deployment despite notice sent to the address and/or contact details on file with the Commission for external and territorial defense shall be punishable in accordance with the Articles of War, and shall, upon

conviction by a court-martial, be punishable by imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than two (2) years;

b) Failure to respond to the order of deployment for internal security and peace and order or disaster risk reduction and management shall, upon conviction by a civil court, be punishable as follows:

First Offense: One hundred and twenty (120) hours of community service;

Second Offense: Two hundred and forty (240) hours of community service; and

Third and Subsequent Offenses: Six (6) months imprisonment and four hundred and eighty (480) hours of community service.

SECTION 39. Disciplinary and Corrective Proceedings. – Administrative offenses committed by persons involved in or in relation to the implementation of this Act, including the administration of the CSTC and the conduct of the Summer Citizen Service Training Camp, shall be subject to administrative penalties in accordance with the applicable civil service rules.

Complaints against heads and commandants of DCSTs or their equivalent, officers of the Commission and such employees of the Commission as may be identified in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, shall be filed with and decided by a Disciplinary Board to be composed of the Chairperson of the Commission, a Commissioner for Training and a Commissioner for Mobilization, both of which shall be selected by the Chairperson. All complaints must be decided by the Disciplinary Board within one hundred and twenty (120) days from filing thereof.

Complaints against officers and employees of the DCSTs, as well cadet officers, shall be filed with and decided by the heads of their respective DCSTs. All complaints must be decided by the head of the DCST within thirty (30) days from filing thereof, subject to a one-time extension of thirty (30) days granted by the Chairperson of the Commission. Unless stayed by the Disciplinary Board for meritorious reasons, all decisions of the heads of DCSTs on the complaints shall be immediately executory.

No motions for reconsideration shall be allowed from the decision of the heads of the DCSTs, but the same may be appealed within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof by filing a memorandum of appeal with the Disciplinary Board of the Commission. If the penalty imposed by the heads of the DCSTs is dismissal, the decision shall be automatically reviewed to the Disciplinary Board.

In all cases of appeal by parties and automatic review by the Disciplinary Board, the entire records of the cases shall be transmitted to the Disciplinary Board within thirty (30) days from the promulgation of the decision by the heads of the DCSTs. All appeals and automatic reviews shall be resolved by the Disciplinary Board within one hundred and twenty (120) days from receipt of the entire records of the cases.

The decisions of the Disciplinary Board shall be final and may be assailed only by a petition for *certiorari* under Rule 65 of the Rules of Court before the Court of Appeals.

SECTION 40. Corruption, graft, hazing and other abuses. – For acts already penalized under existing laws such as corruption, graft, hazing, sexual harassment, and other abuses

committed by persons authorized to administer the CSTC and deployment of the Corps, the maximum penalty imposable under existing laws shall be imposed.

ARTICLE X IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS

SECTION 41. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – The Commission shall be tasked to formulate and approve the necessary rules and regulations to implement the objectives and purposes of this Act within sixty (60) days from its organization. The rules and regulations shall include provisions on the structure and organization of the Corps under Section 9, the structure and organization of the Department of Citizen Service Training under Section 20, the specific mechanisms for the efficient mobilization and deployment of the Corps under Section 29, the incentives for students pursuing Advance CSTC under Section 35, and such other matters as the Commission may deem necessary or essential to fully implement the objectives and purposes of this Act.

ARTICLE XI TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 42. Period of Implementation. – To ensure efficient transition and to enable all public and private colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions to adopt the necessary structural changes within their units in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the CSTC shall be administered in all public colleges, universities, and similar learning institutions after the Commission has promulgated the necessary implementing rules and regulations described in Section 39.

SECTION 43. Initial Program Managers. – The Training Board shall ensure that the initial set of program managers who shall instruct and train the first sets of enrollees in the CSTC in all public and private colleges, universities and similar learning institutions are properly trained and equipped. For this purpose, the Training Board shall develop a Program Managers Training Course (PMTTC). All covered institutions are required to send program managers, in number sufficient to implement the CSTC, to undergo and successfully pass the PMTTC to be administered and conducted by the Commission.

SECTION 44. Current Enrollment under Republic Act No. 9163. – In all cases, students who are currently enrolled under the curriculum implemented by virtue of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, shall be allowed to finish the curriculum and be deemed to have satisfied the requirement for graduation after completion thereof.

SECTION 45. Integration of Existing Reserve Units and Service Corps. – All reservists included in the Reserved Force created under Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act, and all members of the National Service Reserve Corps created under Republic Act No. 9163, shall be absorbed under the Citizen Service Corps created under this Act. The Citizen Service Mobilization Board shall determine their ranks and designations within the Citizen Service Corps.

SECTION 46. Organization of Reserve Components. – To complement the existing AFP Reserve Force, the Commission is hereby authorized and mandated to organize the reserve components of the PNP and the OCD within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act. Thereafter, the administration, operational control and funding of the newly organized reserve components shall be vested upon the PNP and the OCD, respectively.

The Commission shall also develop a Reserve Officer Qualifying Examination to be administered by the Commission to the cadet officers prior to the start of the eight (8th) semester of their Advance CSTC to determine their competencies for the purpose of assigning them as officers of the respective reserve components of the AFP, PNP or OCD. Thereafter, the respective reserve commands of the reserve components shall be responsible for the training and advancement of their reserve officers, where they shall be commissioned as officers.

ARTICLE XII FINAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 47. Repealing Clause. – Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service Training Program Act of 2001, is hereby repealed. The relevant provisions of Republic Act No. 7707, otherwise known as the Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act., are hereby amended as appropriate. All other laws, orders, rules regulations and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are likewise hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 48. Separability Clause. – Any provision of this Act declared unconstitutional shall not affect the validity of the other provisions thereof.

SECTION 49. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,