

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 9832



*Introduced by Representative Joselito "Joel" S. Sacdalan
First District, North Cotabato*

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There are agencies in the executive branch of the national government namely: the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), the Bureau of National Investigation (NBI), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), and the Bureau of Corrections (BuCOR) which are mandated by law creating these to serve and protect the people in different facets, and enforce laws for public order.

Uniformed personnel from these agencies in the performance of their respective duties and responsibilities go through a life-threatening and dangerous acts and undertakings. They are at all times or consistently at risks of getting killed or injured which may render them permanently disabled/incapacitated. The profiles of these uniformed personnel generally may either be a married person whose family are solely dependent of him/her, or unmarried person, but acting as the head of the family or the primary bread-winner. When any mishap or sudden unfortunate events befell on these uniformed personnel, the family left behind always suffer the brunt or effect of these economically or financially. Further, among the most affected need in the family is the schooling of those children or dependents of uniformed personnel who are killed in action or of those seriously wounded making them permanently disabled/incapacitated to earn their living.

This bill seeks to provide full educational assistance and benefits to the school-age surviving children or dependents of those deceased and of those permanently disabled/incapacitated uniformed personnel. While there have been government programs which provide similar assistance and benefits, or the elementary, high schools and tertiary levels, PD 577 and RA 6963, these are only for the AFP, PNP and BFP dependent. Also, for the tertiary education under the UniFAST managed by the Commission of Higher Education, it is also a fact that availing of this does not

automatically guarantee that these surviving children or dependents of uniformed and law enforcers could be accommodated and the program is also competitive, and likewise will not fully free the student from economic difficulties, as he/she has to worry about his daily subsistence and other miscellaneous expenses. At the onset of the Marawi siege, the President has directed the creation of the Comprehensive Social Benefit Program (CSBP) for the dependents of AFP and PNP personnel killed in action (KIA) or wounded in action (WIA), but this is specifically provided to AFP and PNP personnel involved in the Marawi siege, and does not apply to the entire AFP and PNP personnel.

This proposed bill aims to automatically and without qualifications, grant full scholarship to the surviving children or dependents of deceased uniformed personnel and of those permanently incapacitated/disabled, from elementary to tertiary education, in schools of their choice including in a non-exclusive private schools. The full scholarship shall cover tuition, books, uniform (if needed), and monthly stipend to cover daily subsistence, transportation allowance and school supplies. The full educational assistance and benefits shall be distinct from existing free educational /scholarship program.

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



JOSELITO "JOEL" S. SACDALAN

Representative-First District, North Cotabato

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AN ACT
GRANTING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE
SURVIVING CHILDREN OR DEPENDENTS OF ALL UNIFORMED MEMBERS
OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG), BUREAU OF
FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY
(BJMP), NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), PHILIPPINE DRUG
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS
(BuCOR) WHO ARE KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE IN
THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTY OR BYREASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR
POSITION, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

Section 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the “ *Uniformed and
Law Enforcement Personnel Educational Assistance and Benefits Act*”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby the declared policy of the
State to recognize and acknowledge the vital role of the Armed Forces of the
Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG),
Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP),
National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA),
and Bureau of Corrections (BuCOR) in the maintenance of peace and public order in
the country and to ensure that their services and sacrifices for the country will be
compensated or remunerated.

Section 3. Permanent Disability or Incapacity; Definition. – Permanent
disability or incapacity refers to the total permanent disability, which means
that because of injury, a person is unable to work in their own or any occupation for

which they are suited by training, education, or experience. It shall refer to physical or mental injury or infirmity which is (i) permanent, (ii) prevent a person from pursuing his/her normal employment, and (iii) seriously impairs his/her earning capacity.

Section 4. Grant of Educational Assistance and Benefits . – All school-aged surviving children or dependents of uniformed members/ law enforcers of the AFP, PNP, BFP, PCG, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, and BuCOR, who are killed or permanently disabled/incapacitated while in the performance of their duty or by reason of their office or position shall automatically and without qualifications be extended full scholarship and benefits from elementary to tertiary level, whether baccalaureate, formal or non-formal or training program in the school of their choice , both public and private non exclusive school or institution. Such grant of full scholarship and benefit may also be granted to the surviving spouse of killed married uniformed/law enforcers or of the permanently disabled/incapacitated provided, there is no children/dependent qualified for the scholarship program.

If the deceased or permanently disabled/incapacitated personnel is unmarried, but head of the family, his/her qualified siblings will be extended the full scholarship and benefits, or in the absence of a qualified sibling, the nearest kin, either niece or nephew.

Section 5. Uniformed and Law Enforcement Personnel Scholarship Board.- There shall be an inter-agency Scholarship Board to be known as the Uniformed and Law Enforcement Personnel Scholarship Board, which shall be created and organized within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act. The Board shall be composed of the following:

- Secretary of Interior and Local Government, or his alternate
- Secretary of National Defense, or his alternate
- Secretary of Justice , or his alternate
- Secretary of Transportation or his alternate
- Secretary of Education or her alternate
- Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education, or his alternate

The Board shall serve as the policy-making body vested with the authority to formulate the comprehensive guidelines, mechanics/procedure and requirements for the scholarship program including its limitation pursuant to the objectives of this Act.

The Board may create a Technical Working Committee, delegated to handle the responsibility of implementing the Guidelines in terms of screening, admission, qualifications, documentation and coordination with the concerned agencies: AFP, PNP, BFP, PCG, BJMP, NBI , PDEA and BuCOR and with different learning institutions chosen.

The scholarship funds intended for this Act shall be managed and administered in accordance with the policies formulated by the Board.

Section 6. Authority to Accept Donations; Tax Exemption Privilege. -

The Uniformed and Law Enforcement Scholarship Board shall have the authority to accept donations, contributions, grants in cash or in kind, from lawful and appropriate sources, domestic or foreign. Said donations shall be used exclusively to supplement or augment the funding requirements of the scholarship program, subject to existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations; Provided, that any donation, contribution or financial aid which may be made to the Board shall be exempt from taxes of any kind and shall constitute allowable deductions in full from the income of the donors, contributors or giver for income tax purposes.

Furthermore, the Board is authorized to invest so much of the idle funds as may be necessary for the purpose of generating additional revenue for the benefit of the scholarship program subject to the guidelines as may be formulated by the Board.

Section 7. Funding of Educational Assistance and Benefits. - The amounts necessary to fund the educational assistance and benefits for the surviving children or dependents of the deceased or permanently disabled/ incapacitated uniformed and law enforcement personnel under this Act, shall be sourced out from the following:

- A. Thirty per cent (30%) of the amount collected from the fees for firearms permits and licensing by the PNP;
- B. Thirty per cent (30%) of the funds exclusively allocated for scholarship of members of the AFP;
- C. Thirty per cent (30%) of the funds collected from permits and licenses, fines and penalties, and other service incomes by the Philippine Coast Guard;
- D. Thirty per cent (30%) of the fees collected from clearances application fees, and other miscellaneous income by the National Bureau of Investigation
- E. Thirty per cent (30%) of the fees collected from Fire Clearances fee, permits and licenses by the Bureau of Fire Protection;
- F. Donations, grants, subsidies,

Section 8. Appropriations - An allocation from the General Appropriations Act in the amount of Fifty Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be earmarked annually for the Uniformed and Law Enforcement Personnel Scholarship Program to augment the funds generated from Section 7 of this Act, to ensure the funding requirements for each scholars under this Act.

Section 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Uniformed and Law Enforcement Scholarship Board herein created shall formulate and promulgate within sixty (60) days from its creation, the uniform Implementing Rules and Regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 10. Separability Clause. - If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid, illegal or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 11. Repealing Clause. – Presidential Decree No. 577, RA 6963 and all other laws, presidential decrees or issuances, letters of instructions, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended, accordingly.

Section 12. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the country or in the Official Gazette, whichever comes first.

Approved,