

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9916



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State protects its territory and sovereignty so its people and subjects may peacefully thrive and develop.

Through this duty of the State, the timely deployment of troops and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) in critical areas to secure its sovereignty and people is of paramount importance.

With limited vehicles for air travel and the current state of its equipment, the timely deployment of the personnel of the AFP and PNP is greatly affected. The cost of this logistical disadvantage results not only in a belated or at times, unfinished missions or duties. Worse, the safety of our heroes are compromised and lives are lost. An example is the crash incident of a C-130 military plane of the Philippine Air Force early this July.

With such unfortunate mishap, almost 50 people died that fateful day. And this incident comes weeks after a newly acquired S-70i Black Hawk utility helicopter crashed which killed 6 people. These fallen soldiers of ours were deployed for support and bolster our efforts in securing the territory, sovereignty of the nation as well as our brothers and sisters in the south.

With such sad incidents such as these, the vehicles of the Armed Forces were grounded thus once more affecting timely response against threats. This is on top of the fact that only one C-130 is in the country since the other two are outside for maintenance.

So to ensure timely deployment and safety of our personnel, it is the view of this representation that personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and of the Philippine National Police be allowed to travel commercially at a discount.

Thus, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

MANUEL ANTONIO F. ZUBIRI
Representative
Third District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT
GRANTING LOCAL AIR TRAVEL PRIVILEGES TO THE PERSONNEL OF THE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

Section 1. Declaration of State Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to ensure the safe travel of its uniformed personnel. It is likewise the declared policy of the state to enable its armed forces and police to be deployed safely at critical areas in the least amount of time to protect its territory, sovereignty and its people.

Section 2. Scope. – All personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police who are to be officially deployed in various parts of the country to perform their official duties as defenders of the State's territory and sovereignty.

Section 3. Local Air Travel Privilege. – All personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police shall be entitled to a fifty percent (50%) discount in its airfare from all local air companies flying passengers within the country.

Section 4. Tax Incentives. – Local air companies granting the privilege to personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police as mandated by this Act shall be allowed to deduct the discount given to such personnel from its tax liability or claim a tax credit on the same.

The discounted airfare granted to personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police subject of this Act shall likewise be exempt from the imposition of the Value-Added Tax.

Section 5. Air-Fare Allowance and Appropriations. – The Department of Defense (DND) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall include in its budget the necessary air fare allowance of its personnel to be officially deployed requiring commercial air travel. The said allowance shall be chargeable against the respective budgets of the concerned departments.

Section 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of National Defense and Department of Interior and Local Government shall issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations within fifteen (15) days from the enactment of this Act.

Section 7. 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 8. Repealing Clause. – All law, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to this Act are hereby deemed accordingly repealed or amended.

Section 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,