



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1692



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.

AN ACT
REINSTATING THE MANDATORY RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) FOR ALL
STUDENTS IN ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, TECHNICAL OR
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS, AND OTHER SIMILAR LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

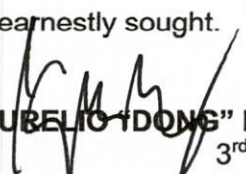
Section 4, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "the prime duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people. The Government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal military or civil service.

Republic Act No. 7077 otherwise known as the "Citizen Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act was enacted to provide the base for the expansion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the event of war, invasion or rebellion. The law also mandates the Reserve Force to assist in relief and rescue during disaster or calamities, socioeconomic development, and in the operation and maintenance of essential government or private utilities in the furtherance of overall mission.

Considering the heightening tension over the West Philippine Sea, the escalating threat caused by insurgencies and increasing frequencies of calamities, there is an urgent need to strengthen and our military capabilities by increasing the manpower of the Armed Forces of the Philippines through the Reservist Force.

This bill seeks to mandate Grade 11 and 12 students to undergo ROTC in an effort to inculcate to them the fundamentals of patriotism and nationalism, and to encourage them to engage in public and civic affairs.

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


REP. AURELIO "DONG" D. GONZALES, JR.
3rd District, Pampanga



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

SECTION 1. Title of Act. - This Act shall be known as the "Mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Act of 2022."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to serve and protect the people. The government may call upon the people to defend the State in fulfillment thereof. All citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service;

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

SECTION 3. Coverage. - The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) shall apply to all students in Grade 11 and 12 in all senior high schools in public and private institutions.

SECTION 4. Reserve Officers' Training Corps. - The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is hereby declared a mandatory subject for all students enrolled in any universities, colleges, technical or vocational schools, and other similar learning institutions. Non-compliance of the ROTC shall deny students of their graduation rites.

These universities, colleges, technical or vocational schools, and other similar learning institutions shall request the Secretary of National Defense to conduct the military training in their respective schools with the qualified military officers of the Department of National Defense.

Furthermore, the Department of National Defense, Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Skills Development Authority shall formulate the subject guidelines of the ROTC and to adopt the rules and regulations to effectively carry out the objectives of this act. The school officials shall provide strict and orderly implementation of these guidelines to ensure smooth training of their students. The schools are also required to directly report to the Department of National Defense any issues that concerns health and safety of the military officers and students.

SECTION 5. Persons Disqualified or Exempted from this Act -

1. Students who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by the medical personnel of the Department of National Defense and medical personnel of the academic institution where the student is enrolled;
2. Students of universities, colleges, and other similar learning institutions who have undergone or are still undergoing ROTC or similar military training as recognized by the Department of National Defense;
3. Students who are active members of the AFP and the PNP;

SECTION 6. Funding. - The funds for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the ROTC shall be provided for in the general appropriations act of the Department of National Defense.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The Department of National Defense, together with Commission on Higher Education and the Technical Skills Development Authority, shall issue four

(4) months from the effectivity of this Act, the implementing rules and regulation to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All Acts and decrees, executive orders, implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provisions of this Act are declared invalid, the remainder or any provisions thereof not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,