

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2759

Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

**AN ACT REVIVING THE RESERVED OFFICER TRAINING CORP (ROTC) IN ALL
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS AS A MANDATORY REQUISITE FOR GRADUATION REPEALING
FOR THE PURPOSE RA 9163 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL SERVICE
TRAINING PROGRAM (NSTP) ACT OF 2001 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*Be it 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 "Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Act of 2019".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy — It is the policy of the State to serve and protect its citizens. 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.

Recognizing the youth's vital role in nation-building, the State shall promote civic consciousness among the youth and shall develop their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism, nationalization, and advance their involvement in public and civic affairs.

In pursuit of these goals, the youth, the most valuable resource of the nation, shall be motivated, trained, organized and mobilized in basic military and civic training in the service of the nation.

SECTION 3. Coverage — The conduct of military training under the ROTC shall apply to all male students in grades 11 and 12 in all senior high schools in public and private educational institutions. Female students shall undergo civic training under the ROTC on basic rescue operations and the delivery of health services. Students shall be required to complete the ROTC for an academic period of two (2) years.

SECTION 4. Establishment of the ROTC - There is hereby established a mandatory military and civic training for all senior high school students in public and private educational

institutions. The ROTC shall form part of the curriculum of all senior high schools, and shall be a pre-requisite for graduation.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall, in coordination with the Department of National Defense, issue the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the objectives of this Act.

SECTION 6. Persons Disqualified or Exempted - The following students are disqualified or exempted from the coverage:

- a. Students who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by the medical personnel of the university or institution concerned;
- b. Those convicted by final judgement of criminal offenses involving moral turpitude;
- c. 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 military authorities as among those undergo training to qualify as reservists; and
- d. Those persons who are members of affiliated units in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.

SECTION 7. Transitory Provision - This Act shall apply in the year following its approval. Any student enrolled and undertaking any component of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) shall be allowed to continue and complete the program.

SECTION 8. Repealing Clause — For purposes of this Act, pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program Act of 2001" is hereby deemed amended. All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations or pans thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

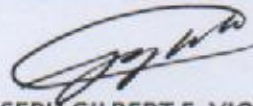
In support of President Rodrigo Duterte's renewed appeal to make the Reserved Officers' Training Corp. (ROTC) program mandatory for senior high school students, this bill seeks to revive the ROTC as a requisite for graduation repealing for the purpose R.A 9163 otherwise known as the "National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001".

The ROTC program gives life to the avowed State policy as expressed in Section 13, Article II of the Constitution that "the State shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civil affairs." Without the ROTC course becoming a mandatory requirement for students in grades 11 and 12, the declared State principle enunciated in Section 4, Article II of the Constitution that "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, "would be put to naught and rendered meaningless.

Moreover, restoring the mandatory military training for senior high school students in public and private schools nationwide would instill discipline among the youth, develop leadership and establish a standby force for mobilization during national emergencies, calamities and other instances where they could be called upon and mobilized to assist in matters of external and territorial defense, internal security and peace and order since, a mandatory ROTC program will provide the Armed Forces of the Philippines with the support of well-trained reservists and potential commissioned officers.

This bill was consolidated with House Bill No. 8961 in the 17th Congress and subsequently approved by the House of Representatives on Third Reading on May 20, 2019.

Support and approval for this proposed legislation are hereby earnestly sought.


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