

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL NO. 5217**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE VIRGILIO S. LACSON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In any functioning society, the prime duty of the government is to serve and protect its citizens. In fact, it is one of the ultimate purposes of the creation of a Government. The duty to protect its people emanates from the concept of self-preservation, such that the State can only exist if its territory and people are free from harm and interference from any forces.

In turn, it shall be the responsibility of all citizens to defend the security of the State and in fulfillment thereof, the government may require each citizen to render personal, military or civil service. In pursuit of these goals, the youth, the most valuable resource of the nation, shall be motivated, trained, organized and mobilized in military training, literacy, civic welfare and other similar endeavors in the service of the nation.

This bill aims to re-institutionalize the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) among all College Students. The completion of the 2-semester ROTC program shall be necessary as a requirement for graduation. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with the Department of National Defense (DND) and Department of Transportation (DOTr), shall be the agencies in charge of the design and implementation of the program components. This Act likewise provides that students may be assigned in Philippine ports, i.e. airports, sea ports as part of their course requirement.

At a time when there is a constant external and internal threat to the peace and order and safety of the nation, it is high time that the ROTC must be invigorated so that under compelling circumstances, reserve officers may assist the AFP in bringing about peace and order throughout the archipelago.

Hence, the passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


VIRGILIO S. LACSON
Manila Teachers Party-list

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**AN ACT
REINSTITUTING ROTC AS A MANDATORY COURSE FOR ALL COLLEGE
STUDENTS, REVIVING THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7077, AND COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 1, AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.
9163 FOR OTHER PURPOSE**

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

SECTION 1. Statement of Policy. - Section 4 of Article II of the 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.”

To this end, the State shall ensure that its citizenry is prepared to take on such responsibility in the event that the service is called upon due to necessity.

SEC. 2. Re-institution of ROTC as a Mandatory Course for all College Students. - The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) is now made mandatory for all college students taking up undergraduate collegiate courses in accordance with the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7077 and Commonwealth Act No. 1, which are hereby revived.

SEC. 3. Repeal of the Pertinent Provisions of R.A. No. 9163. - The provisions of Republic Act No. 9163 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, Republic Act No. 7077 and of Commonwealth Act No. 1 are hereby repealed.

SEC. 4. Program Components. – In the re-institution of the course, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in consultation with the Department of National Defense (DND) and Department of Transportation (DOTr), shall design and implement such other program components as may be necessary in consonance with the provisions of this Act. Upon recommendation of DND and DOTr, the assignment of students to Philippine ports, i.e. airports, sea ports, shall be considered as compliance with the course requirement.



SEC. 5. Coverage - Students, male and female, of any baccalaureate degree course or at least two (2)-year technical vocational courses in public and private educational institutions shall be required to complete 2-semester program of ROTC as requisite for graduation. Graduates of the ROTC shall form part of the Citizens' Armed Force, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7077.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules. - The DND, DOTr, CHED and TESDA shall have the joint responsibility for the adoption of the implementing rules of this Act within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

SEC.7. Separability Clause - If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Amendatory Clause - Section 35 of Commonwealth Act No. 1, Executive Order No.207 of 1939, Sections 2 and 3 of Presidential Decree No. 1706, and Sections 38 and 39 of Republic Act No. 7077, as well as all laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended and modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in Official Gazette, but the implementation of this Act shall commence in the school year of 2024-2025.

Approved,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Placer", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.