

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 5708

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.

Article XIII, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

The State shall protect working women by providing safe and healthful working conditions, taking into account their maternal functions, and such facilities and opportunities that will enhance their welfare and enable them to realize their full potential in the service of the nation.

It is clear from these provisions that the State should ensure the full participation of women and that their potential must be realized. Gone are the days where women are restricted to certain professions. In the Philippine National Police, there are many instances where women police officers have shown that not only are they equal to their male counterparts, they are even better.

Thus, this bill which seeks to amend RA 8551 and provide for a gradual increase in the number of women in law enforcement by increasing to 25% in a 5-year period and to 50% ten years thereafter.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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AN ACT

INCREASING THE RECRUITMENT QUOTA REQUIREMENT OF FEMALE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) OFFICERS, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title VII of Republic Act No. 8551, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998", is hereby amended to read as follows:

TITLE VII

[CREATION OF WOMEN'S DESKS IN ALL POLICE STATIONS]
PRIORITIZATION OF WOMEN'S RECRUITMENT AND THE
FORMULATION OF A GENDER SENSITIVITY PROGRAM

SEC. 2. Section 57 of Republic Act No. 8551 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 57. [Creation and Functions.] **Prioritization of Women for Recruitment.** - [The PNP shall establish women's desks in all police stations throughout the country to administer and attend to cases involving crimes against chastity, sexual harassment, abuses committed against women and children and other similar offenses: Provided, That municipalities and cities presently without policewomen will have two (2) years upon the effectivity of this Act within which to comply with the requirement of this provision.] **WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE (5) YEARS, THE PNP SHALL PRIORITIZE THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF WOMEN. PURSUANT TO THIS REQUIREMENT, THE PNP SHALL RESERVE TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT (25%) OF ITS ANNUAL RECRUITMENT, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION QUOTA FOR WOMEN: PROVIDED, THAT THE RECRUITMENT QUOTA FOR WOMEN SHALL BE INCREASED PROGRESSIVELY UNTIL IT REACHES FIFTY PERCENT (50%) TEN YEARS THEREAFTER.**"

SEC 3. Section 58 of Republic Act No. 8551 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 58. [Prioritization of Women for Recruitment.] **CREATION OF WOMEN'S DESKS.** - [Within the next five (5) years, the PNP shall prioritize the recruitment and training of women who shall serve in the women's desk. Pursuant to this requirement, the PNP shall reserve ten percent (10%) of its annual recruitment, training, and education quota for women.] **THE PNP SHALL ESTABLISH WOMEN'S DESKS IN ALL POLICE STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO ADMINISTER AND ATTEND TO CASES INVOLVING CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY, SEXUAL**

HARASSMENT, ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND OTHER SIMILAR OFFENSES.

SEC 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Police Commission in coordination with the PNP, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. Separability Clause. - If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the sections or provisions which are not affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC 6. Repealing Clause, - All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,