

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8149



Introduced by Representative Joseph Gilbert F. Violago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 8551, promulgated on February 25, 1998, the Philippine National Police (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. 57) In furtherance of this, PNP shall prioritize the recruitment and training of women who shall serve in the women's desk. Hence, the present law requires the PNP to reserve ten percent (10%) of its annual recruitment, training, and education quota for women. (Sec. 58)

After 25 years, the need for female police officers cannot be gainsaid. There are rising cases involving crimes against chastity, sexual harassment, abuses committed against women and children and other similar offenses. In fact, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority's National Demographic Health Surveys of 2008, 2013, and 2017, "1 in 4 Filipino women aged 15-49 had experienced physical, emotional, or sexual violence from their husband or partner."¹

Therefore, in order to enhance the capabilities of the police force in handling rising cases of abuse against women and children, including similar crimes, there is a need to increase the annual recruitment quota of female officers to fifteen percent (15%).

This commendable bill was introduced by Rep. Johnny T. Pimentel in the 17th Congress. It was approved on Third and Final Reading, and was transmitted to the Senate; however, the same was not passed into law. Similar versions of this bill were filed in the subsequent Congresses. The present proponent acknowledges the hard work and wisdom of his predecessors.

¹ Ortuoste, Jenny. "Ending violence vs. women and children". *The Manila Standard*. Web. November 23, 2022. Accessed on 15 April 2023. < <https://manilastandard.net/opinion/columns/pop-goes-the-world-by-jenny-ortuoste/314280967/ending-violence-vs-women-and-children.html> >

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Violago', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO

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AN ACT

**INCREASING THE RECRUITMENT QUOTA REQUIREMENT OF FEMALE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) OFFICERS, AMENDING SECTION
58 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
'PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE REFORM AND REORGANIZATION
ACT OF 1998'**

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

SECTION 1. Section 58 of Republic Act No. 8851, otherwise known as the "Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 58. *Prioritization of Women for Recruitment* – 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~~] **FIFTEEN** percent [~~(40%)~~] **(15%)** of its annual recruitment, training, and education quota for women: **PROVIDED, THAT THE RECRUITMENT QUOTA FOR WOMEN SHALL BE INCREASED TO TWENTY PERCENT (20%) THEREAFTER.**"

SECTION 2. The National Police Commission in coordination with the Philippine National Police and the Department of the Interior and Local Government shall promulgate rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon their publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

SECTION 3. All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,