

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. 3051



---

Introduced by: Congressman **BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.**

---

**AN ACT**  
**REINSTITUTING THE RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC),**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZED UNDER SECTIONS 38 AND 39 OF R.A. NO. 7077, IN**  
**GRADES 11 AND 12 IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL**  
**INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 9163, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM ACT OF**  
**2001", AND FURTHER AMENDING R.A. NO. 7077, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS**  
**THE "CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OR ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**RESERVIST ACT", AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1706, APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It is the primary duty of the Government to serve and protect the people, and 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 (*Sec. 4, Art. II, Constitution*).

The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy (*Sec. 5, Art. II, Constitution*)

Likewise, 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, nationalism, and advance their involvement in public and civic affairs (*Sec. 13, Art. II, Constitution*).

It is in the light of these State principles and policies enshrined in our Constitution that the reinstitution of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps becomes relevant. The Reserve Officers' Training Corps sought to be reinstituted under this Bill is a program designed to provide basic military training to Grades 11 and 12 students in order to motivate, train, organize, and mobilize them not only for national defense but also for disaster and calamity response preparedness, and other civic duties.

The ROTC program is aimed at deepening civic consciousness in the youth by developing the ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training specially designed to enhance their active contribution to the general welfare.

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



**BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. **3051**

---

Introduced by: Congressman **BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.**

---

**AN ACT**  
**REINSTITUTING THE RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC),**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZED UNDER SECTIONS 38 AND 39 OF R.A. NO. 7077, IN**  
**GRADES 11 AND 12 IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL**  
**INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 9163, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM ACT OF 2001",**  
**AND FURTHER AMENDING R.A. NO. 7077, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**"CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OR ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**RESERVIST ACT", AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1706, APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the **"Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Act of 2025."**

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – As it is the prime duty of the Government to serve and protect its citizens, and the preservation of the State is the obligation of every citizen. It shall be the responsibility of all citizens to defend the security of the State, and in the fulfillment thereof, the government may require each citizen to render personal, military, or civil service.

In pursuit of these goals, the youth, as the most valuable assets of the nation, shall be motivated, trained, organized, and mobilized in military training, not only for national defense but also for disaster and calamity response preparedness, and other civic duties. Towards this end, the state shall enhance civic consciousness in the youth by developing the ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training specially designed for their active contribution to the general welfare.

**SEC. 3. *Coverage.*** – Military training under the Reserve Officers' Training Corps shall apply to all Grade 11 and 12 students in all public and private educational institutions.

**SEC. 4. *The Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program.*** – (a) There is hereby established a mandatory two-year basic ROTC program for Grades 11 and 12 students, which shall form part of the basic curricula for senior high school students in all public and private educational institutions.

(b) The basic ROTC program shall include the following areas of instruction:

1. Basic military training and military discipline aimed at motivating, training, organizing, preparing, and utilizing the students not only for

national defense but also for disaster and calamity response preparedness, and for other civic duties;

2. Enhancement of their civic consciousness by developing and inculcating in them the ethics of service, the spirit of nationalism and patriotism, the rule of law and respect for human rights, and instilling in them the role and sacrifice of our national heroes in defending the territorial integrity of our country and in ultimately gaining our independence as a sovereign nation and a free people;
3. Promotion, protection, and instilling in them ethical, moral, and spiritual values, personal discipline, intellectual and social well-being, and the development of their leadership, creative thinking, scientific, and technological skills; and
4. Civic training to prepare them for active and personal participation under the spirit of volunteerism when the exigencies of safety, health, peace and order, or calamity or disaster call for such personal participation and direct involvement;

(c) The ROTC training and program shall not be used for partisan political aims or purposes, nor shall it be used, directly or indirectly, to teach, promote, or support any ideology opposed to the duly constituted authorities or to the principles and policies of the State.

(d) The educational institution and those handling or undertaking the ROTC training and programs shall ensure that no hazing or physical abuse shall be employed.

(e) Any student, who is not otherwise exempt under this Act, who fails to undergo the two-year basic ROTC program herein provided shall not be allowed to graduate from Senior High School and shall undergo a Compulsory Military Training pursuant to Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the "Citizen Armed Force or Armed forces of the Philippines Reservist Act".

(f) The basic ROTC training shall be conducted on any day except Sundays and Saturdays in deference to the student's freedom of religion.

(g) Any educational institution that fails to institute and implement the basic ROTC training and program provided for in this Act shall be subject to disciplinary action by the concerned government Agencies, Departments, and Authorities, which may include the revocation of its authority to operate as such.

**SEC. 5. *Students Exempted from this Act.*** – The following students are exempted from the coverage of this Act:

- (a) Those who are physically or psychologically unfit as certified by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Surgeon General (SG) or his duly authorized medical officer, in pursuance of the recommendation of the educational institution where the student is enrolled;
- (b) Those who have undergone or are undergoing similar military training;
- (c) Those convicted by final judgment of an offense involving moral turpitude; and

- (d) Those who may be exempted from the program for valid reasons as determined and approved by the Department of National Defense (DND) and upon the recommendation of the educational institution where the student is enrolled;

**SEC. 6. *Acceptance for Advanced ROTC.*** – Students who volunteer to take Advance ROTC Program in any tertiary public or private educational institution after taking the basic ROTC training and program shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7077, and the provisions thereof on matters of training, uniforms, supplies and scholarship incentives shall remain effective: *Provided*, That the consent of the student's parents or guardian shall be required where such student is not yet emancipated in accordance with law: *Provided further*, That such student shall be screened by the ROTC Acceptance Board of the educational institution which is hereby created for this purpose composed of the

Commandant of the ROTC Unit, a representative of the educational institution duly nominated by the educational institution authorities, and a military physician: *Provided finally*, that the student shall confirm in writing that he volunteered for advanced ROTC training and that he be physically examined and certified fit by a military physician.

**SEC. 7. *Organization, Operation, and Maintenance of ROTC Units.*** –

- (a) The organization, operation, and maintenance of ROTC shall be in accordance with Sections 41 and 42 of Republic Act No. 7077, which shall remain effective and operative unless inconsistent with this Act.
- (b) The Secretary of the Department of National Defense, in consultation and coordination with the DepEd, TESDA, and CHED, shall prescribe the organizational and operational manual of ROTC Units, which shall be uniform in all public and private educational institutions for Grades 11 and 12 students, as well as those for the Advanced ROTC program.
- (c) All educational institutions shall provide an adequate office for the ROTC administrative staff assigned thereat.
- (d) The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall create an office within its Reserve Commands dedicated to the supervision and administration of the ROTC Program in coordination with the DepEd, TESDA, and CHED.
- (e) Training shall be under the direct supervision, control and monitoring of a military officer in the reserve or regular force of the AFP, as may be assigned by the Secretary of the Department of National Defense to each educational institution implementing the ROTC program, who shall be assisted by an instructor who must be an active faculty member of good standing of the educational institution where the ROTC program and training is being implemented.

**SEC. 8. *Incentives for Undergoing the ROTC Program.***– Students who are undergoing or have undergone the Basic or Advanced ROTC program shall be –

- (a) Eligible for commissionship/lateral entry and enlistment in the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and Bureau of Fire Protection (PFP), subject to other requirements prescribed

under pertinent rules and regulations, unless a waiver is issued by the responsible officer of the aforementioned military and civilian institutions.

- (b) Provided with free hospitalization, medicine, and medical attendance in any government hospital in case of accident, injury, or illness contracted during training. Educational institutions are mandated to provide and secure free insurance coverage for their students undergoing basic ROTC training.
- (c) Given access and privileges to any AFP Commissary and PX stores nationwide. The Chief of Staff of the AFP shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this privilege.

**SEC. 9. ROTC Grievance Board.** – (a) There is hereby created a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Grievance Board composed of one (1) representative from the Department of National Defense and two (2) representatives from the Department of Education who shall be appointed by the Department Secretary on the basis of their integrity, probity, and independence. The senior representative from the Department of Education shall be the chairperson of the Board. The Board shall have the following powers:

- (1) Investigate and resolve complaints, in any form, involving the implementation, conduct, or administration of the ROTC training and program;
- (2) Ensure that the ROTC program and training are free from the promotion or advancement of partisan political aims or purposes or any ideology opposed to the duly constituted authorities or to the principles and policies of the State;
- (3) Recommend policies and reforms to ensure that the ROTC program and training are consistent with the Constitution and all laws, rules, and regulations respecting and protecting human rights, lives or limbs, liberty, and property; and
- (4) Recommend to the proper authorities the prosecution of any person who, in the implementation or administration of the ROTC training and program, violates the human rights, lives or limbs, liberty or property of a student undertaking the program and training;

(b) The decision of the ROTC Grievance Board shall be appealable to the Office of the President.

**SEC. 10. – Liability of Educational Institutions** – The military officer and instructor-faculty member of the educational institution shall be responsible for the proper and safe implementation of the program and training. The educational institution shall act as *parens patriae* of the students undergoing ROTC training. The military officer, instructor-faculty member, and the officials of the educational institution shall be liable for any damage or injury sustained by a student in the course of his/her training under the ROTC program due to their negligence.

**SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The DND, DepEd, TESDA, and CHED shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 12. *Funding.*** - The funding requirement to implement the establishment, implementation, maintenance, and operation of the Basic ROTC Program shall be included in the budget of the implementing agencies/departments in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

**SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** - The provisions of this Act are hereby deemed separable. If any provision thereof is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the other provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any provision of Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the “National Service Training Program Act of 2001”, Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the “Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act”, Presidential Decree No. 1706, and other decrees, administrative orders, laws, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 15. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*