



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4255**



Introduced by Representatives Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A TEN PERCENT (10%) DISCOUNT TO MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5(3) of Article XVI of the 1987 Constitution provides that professionalism in the armed forces and adequate remuneration and benefits of its members shall be a prime concern of the State. This mandates the State to prioritize and provide adequate support and incentives to the military and uniformed personnel (MUPs) of the country. To heed this mandate, this bill aims to entitle MUPs to discount privileges on the sale of goods and services.

Military and Uniformed Personnel (MUP) refers to officers, enlisted and uniformed personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Hydrography Branch of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA).¹

At present, available discounts and benefits subsidized or provided by the government for the MUPs include:

¹ Republic Act No. 12177, otherwise known as the Free Legal Assistance for Military and Uniformed Personnel

- **free medical and dental services** in government hospitals such as AFP Health Service Command, PNP General Hospital, and other military-run hospitals;
- **housing discounts and financing** through the National Housing Authority Government Employees Housing Program through financing acquisition of developed lots and completed housing units in permanent sites² and Pag-IBIG Fund Special Housing Loan Program with lower interest rates, longer repayment terms, and reduced equity or downpayment;³
- **educational scholarships** for the dependents of MUP personnel who were killed-in-action or permanently incapacitated due to combat⁴ through CHED Scholarship grants, AFP Educational Benefit System Office (AFPEBSO), and PNP Educational Assistance Program;
- **discounted public transport fare** in several LGUs such as free fare in public railways in Metro Manila; and,
- **tax exemptions as well as attachment, levy, and execution exemptions** on longevity pay, mandatory allowances,⁵ collateral pay,⁶ and collateral allowances,⁷ and other benefits⁸ provided by law for AFP personnel,⁹ uniformed personnel under DILG;¹⁰

In addition, Republic Act No. 12177, otherwise known as the “*Free Legal Assistance for Military and Uniformed Personnel Act*,” which provides free legal assistance to military and uniformed personnel in criminal, civil, or administrative proceedings arising from service-related incidents, was recently enacted on 15 April 2025.

At the same time, some private businesses offer voluntary discounts and benefits for MUPs, such as:

- special discounts or exclusive deals in retail and food chains;
- discounted or special rates from real estate developers (Camella, Lumina) for uniformed personnel; and,
- preferential loan terms and conditions from banks and lending institutions.

² <https://gehp.nha.gov.ph/about.php>

³ <https://army.mil.ph/home/index.php/press-releases-archive-2/1700-army-partners-with-pag-ibig-to-aid-housing-programs-for-military-personnel>

⁴ <https://pvao.gov.ph/pvao-afpebso-renew-commitment-in-providing-scholarship-for-afp-personnel-dependents/>

⁵ This includes cost of living allowance, personnel economic relief allowance, and hazardous allowance

⁶ This includes specialist pay, combat pay, flying pay, air mechanic’s pay, sea duty pay, hazardous duty pay, instructor’s duty pay, parachutist’s pay, and hardship pay

⁷ This includes special clothing allowance, cold winter’s clothing allowance and cold weather clothing maintenance allowance, winter clothing allowance, initial enlistment and reenlistment allowance, and laundry allowance

⁸ This includes retirement benefits, pensions, death, and disability benefits

⁹ R.A. No. 9040, otherwise known as the AFP Tax Exemption for Pay and Allowances Act of 2001

¹⁰ R.A. No. 6975, otherwise known as the Department of the Interior and Local Government Act of 1990

However, while several discounts and benefits are already in place, some are not available to all military and uniformed personnel; some are offered only by a limited number of establishments; and, most are only available occasionally or seasonally.

Thus, this bill grants a ten percent (10%) discount on the sale of certain goods and services to all employees who belong to the AFP, BuCor, BFP, BJMP, PCG, PNP, and the commissioned officers of the Hydrography Branch of the NAMRIA who were transferred from the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Such discount privilege will be applicable in all private hospitals and medical facilities; in actual transportation fare for domestic land and air travels; on utilization of services in lodging establishments; on admission fees charged by leisure and amusement establishments; and, on funeral and burial services.

The grant of discount privileges is in recognition of their service and sacrifice, as they risk their lives daily, primarily involved in national defense, law enforcement, and the maintenance of peace, order, and security. Not only will this provide financial relief and support to them and their families, but it will also reinforce that the state values their welfare.

Further, for the purposes of this Act, the discount privilege will be extended to the personnel of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) due to the inherent risks they face in their line of duty, as these two law enforcement agencies also play a vital role in maintaining peace and order.

This measure was filed by Rep. Midy Cua during the 19th Congress and was primarily referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

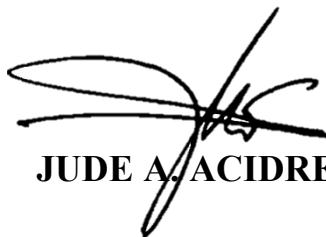
In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL

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 “*Military and Uniformed Personnel Discount Act.*”

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to adequately compensate its military and uniformed personnel (MUP). Towards this end, it shall adopt privileges that complement the basic compensation of MUP to ensure the affordability of essential goods and services.

Section 3. *Discount Privilege of Military and Uniformed Personnel.* – All employees of the government who wear uniforms, with ranks, may be armed or unarmed, primarily involved in national defense, enforcement of laws, and in the maintenance of peace, order, and security and who belong to the Armed

Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Philippine National Police (PNP) and the commissioned officers of the Hydrography Branch of the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) who were transferred from the Bureau of Coast and Geodetic Survey shall be entitled to a ten percent (10%) discount on the sale of the following goods and services from all establishments:

- a) On the purchase of medicines, including the purchase of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines, and such other essential medical supplies, accessories and equipment to be determined by the Department of Health (DOH);

The DOH shall establish guidelines and mechanism of compulsory rebates in the sharing of burden of discounts among retailers, manufacturers and distributors, taking into consideration their respective margins;

- b) On the professional fees of attending physician/s in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics and home health care services;
- c) On the professional fees of licensed professional health providing home health care services as endorsed by private hospitals or employed through home health care employment agencies;
- d) On medical and dental services, diagnostic and laboratory fees in all private hospitals, medical facilities, outpatient clinics, and home health care services, in accordance with the rules and regulations to be issued

by the DOH, in coordination with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth);

- e) In actual fare for land transportation travel in public utility buses (PUBs), public utility jeepneys (PUJs), taxis, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs), shuttle services and public railways, including Light Rail Transit (LRT), Mass Rail Transit (MRT), and Philippine National Railways (PNR);
- f) In actual transportation fare for domestic air transport services and sea shipping vessels and the like, based on the actual fare and advanced booking;
- g) On the utilization of services in hotels and similar lodging establishments, restaurants and recreation centers;
- h) On admission fees charged by theaters, cinema houses and concert halls, circuses, leisure and amusement; and
- i) On funeral and burial services.

In the purchase of goods or services on promotional discount, the MUP can avail of the promotional discount, or the discount provided herein, whichever is higher.

Section 4. *Limitation on Discount Privilege.* – The discount privilege mentioned in this Act shall only apply to the personal account of the MUP in payment for goods and services actually used by him or her. These shall not

extend to his or her relatives or companions who are not qualified beneficiaries under this Act.

Section 5. *Proof of Identity.* – The MUP, including his or her duly authorized representative, must present an identification card issued by his or her respective agency to avail of the discount privilege.

Section 6. *Tax Deduction.* – An establishment may claim the discount granted in Act as tax deduction based on the cost of goods sold or services rendered, *provided*: That the cost of the discount shall be allowed as deduction from gross income for the same taxable year that the discount is granted, *Provided, further*: That the total amount of the claimed tax deduction net of VAT, if applicable, shall be included in their gross sales receipts for tax purposes and shall be subject to proper documentation and to the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code (NICR), as amended.

Section 7. *Penalties.* – Any person who refuses to honor the discount or violates any provision of this Act shall suffer the following penalties:

- a) For the first violation, imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years and a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) but not exceeding One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00);
- b) For any subsequent violation, imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than six (6) years and a fine of not less than One Hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00) but not exceeding Two hundred thousand pesos (Php200,000.00); and

- c) Any person who abuses the privileges granted herein shall be punished with imprisonment of not less than six (6) months and a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (Php100,000.00).

If the offender is a corporation, partnership, organization or any similar entity, the officials thereof directly involved such as the president, general manager, managing partner, or such other officer charged with the management of the business affairs shall be liable therefor.

If the offender is an alien or a foreigner, he/she shall be deported immediately after service of sentence.

Upon filing of an appropriate complaint, and after due notice and hearing, the proper authorities may also cause the cancellation or revocation of the business permit, permit to operate, franchise and other similar privileges granted to any person, establishment or business entity that fails to abide by the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,