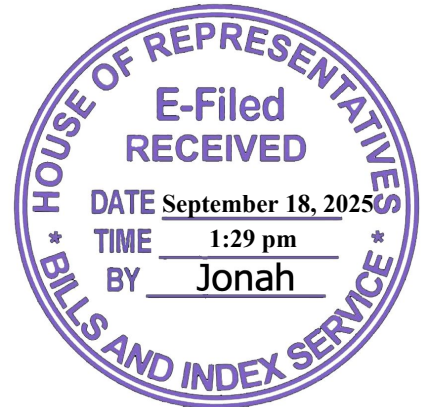




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4673



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

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR UNIFORMED PERSONNEL AND OTHER QUALIFIED AUXILIARY SERVICE MEMBERS WHO ARE KILLED, WOUNDED, OR RENDERED PHYSICALLY DISABLED IN LEGITIMATE ACTIONS OR OPERATIONS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL BENEFITS PROGRAM TRUST FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5(3), Article XVI of the Constitution provides that adequate remuneration and benefits for the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) shall be a prime concern of the State. Moreover, Section 76 of Republic Act No. 6975 or the "Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Act of 1990," as amended, provides that all uniformed personnel and/or their heirs shall be entitled to all benefits relative to their death or permanent incapacity. These provisions reaffirm the State's duty to recognize the sacrifices of those in uniform who dedicate their lives to defending the country, maintaining peace and order, and ensuring the safety of the Filipino people. In the performance of these sworn duties, military and uniformed personnel (MUPs) are often killed, wounded, or rendered permanently disabled in legitimate actions and operations.

To aid their families, Administrative Order No. 110, s. 2020 created the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CBSP). While this mechanism has

delivered vital support in the form of financial, educational, shelter, medical, and employment assistance, it remains dependent on executive issuance and annual budgetary priorities. Furthermore, the program needs to be more inclusive, its delivery more expedited, and its benefits more attuned with current needs.

With this bill, the coverage of the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program is extended to the uniformed personnel of the Bureau of Corrections and is expanded to better reflect present realities and future needs by providing for the following:

- Special Financial Assistance, indexed to inflation to maintain sufficiency over time;
- Educational Assistance for dependents, covering tuition, fees, and allowances under CHED, TESDA, DND, DILG, and NAPOLCOM programs;
- Shelter Assistance, with priority for widows and orphans, in coordination with the NHA;
- Health, Medical, and Psychosocial Assistance, including lifetime PhilHealth coverage, hospitalization, medicines, and mental health and trauma counseling;
- Social Welfare and Livelihood Assistance, including subsistence support, 4Ps integration, livelihood training, and grants for dependents; and,
- Employment Assistance, through preferential hiring in national and local government, uniformed services, and partner institutions, facilitated by DOLE and DILG.

In addition, it establishes a ₱20 billion CBSP Trust Fund to ensure permanent and adequate funding. It also strengthens governance by establishing a digitized benefits system, requiring annual reporting to Congress and the Commission on Audit, and creating local focal desks to provide accessible frontline support to beneficiaries.

By enacting this measure, Congress ensures that the sacrifices of uniformed personnel are met with a permanent, sustainable, and responsive system of social protection that provides their families not only with immediate relief but with long-term dignity, security, and opportunity.

A similar measure was also filed during the 19th Congress.

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



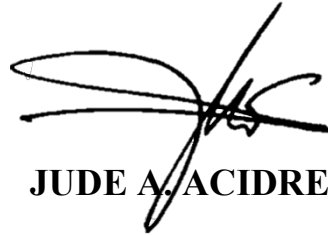
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4673

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

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL BENEFITS PROGRAM FOR UNIFORMED PERSONNEL AND OTHER QUALIFIED AUXILIARY SERVICE MEMBERS WHO ARE KILLED, WOUNDED, OR RENDERED PHYSICALLY DISABLED IN LEGITIMATE ACTIONS OR OPERATIONS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL BENEFITS PROGRAM TRUST FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "*Comprehensive Social Benefits Program for Uniformed Personnel Act.*"

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to recognize the sacrifices of uniformed personnel and auxiliary service members in defending the sovereignty of the Republic, maintaining peace and order, and ensuring the safety of the people. Towards this end, the State shall provide an institutionalized and sustainable system of social protection to guarantee the welfare of their

dependents in the event of death, injury, or permanent disability incurred in legitimate operations.

Section 3. *Coverage and Scope.* – This Act shall cover all active uniformed personnel of the:

- a) Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and CAFGU Active Auxiliary (CAA);
- b) Philippine National Police (PNP);
- c) Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP);
- d) Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP);
- e) Bureau of Corrections (BuCor); and,
- f) Philippine Coast Guard (PCG),

who are killed, wounded, or rendered permanently disabled in legitimate actions or operations, as well as their qualified dependents and beneficiaries.

Section 4. *Comprehensive Social Benefits Program.* – The Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CBSP) is hereby institutionalized and shall provide the following forms of assistance:

1. Special Financial Assistance – Lump-sum cash assistance for death, injury, or permanent disability, indexed to inflation and adjusted periodically by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in consultation with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).
2. Educational Assistance – Full tuition, allowances, and related educational support for dependents, to be implemented under programs

of Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of National Defense (DND), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), and National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM).

3. Shelter Assistance – Provision of housing units or financial support for construction, repair, or improvement of homes, in coordination with the National Housing Authority (NHA). Priority shall be given to widows, orphans, and dependents of deceased personnel.
4. Health, Medical, and Psychosocial Assistance – Lifetime PhilHealth coverage as indirect contributors, access to Department of Health (DOH) medical and hospital assistance programs, and psychosocial support including mental health and trauma counseling for beneficiaries.
5. Social Welfare and Livelihood Assistance – Monthly subsistence allowance or integration into the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) for indigent families, livelihood training, and grants facilitated by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and TESDA.
6. Employment Assistance – Preferential hiring of qualified dependents in national and local government offices, uniformed services, and partner private institutions, with placement support provided by DOLE and DILG.

7. Digitalized Benefits System – Development of a unified CBSP database and electronic benefits card linked with the Philippine Identification System, PhilHealth, Government Service Insurance System, and other relevant systems to ensure efficient delivery and transparency.

Section 5. *Comprehensive Social Benefits Program Trust Fund.* – There is hereby created a Comprehensive Social Benefits Program Trust Fund in the amount of Twenty Billion Pesos (₱20,000,000,000.00), to be managed and replenished annually through the General Appropriations Act. The Fund shall be used exclusively for the benefits provided under this Act.

Section 6. *Administration and Oversight.* –

(a) There is hereby created a Comprehensive Social Benefits Program Fund Board, or the Board, to oversee, manage, and supervise the utilization and operation of the Fund, to be composed of the following:

1. President of the Philippines as the Chairperson;
2. Secretary of the DND as a Vice-Chairperson;
3. Secretary of the DILG as a co Vice-Chairperson;
4. Secretary of DBM;
5. Secretary of DSWD;
6. Secretary of DOH;
7. Secretary of Department of Finance;
8. Chairperson of the CHED;
9. Director General of TESDA;
10. General Manager of the NHA;
11. Chief of Staff, AFP;

- 12.Chief, PNP;
- 13.Chief, BFP;
- 14.Chief, BJMP;
- 15.Commandant, PCG; and,
- 16.Director General, BuCor.

Provided, That the members of the Board shall be authorized to designate their respective alternatives whose acts shall be considered as acts of their principals.

- (b) Local Government Units (LGUs) shall establish CBSP focal desks in provinces, cities, and municipalities to assist beneficiaries in accessing benefits.
- (c) The Board shall submit an annual report to Congress on the utilization of the Fund, program implementation, and beneficiary data. The Fund shall be subject to annual audit by the Commission on Audit (COA).

Section 7. *Digitalized Benefits System.* – Pursuant to the creation of a Digitalized Benefits System provided under Section 4(7) of this Act, the Board, in coordination with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), shall develop, establish, and maintain a unified CBSP database and an electronic benefits card system. The system shall:

- a) be integrated with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys), PhilHealth, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and other relevant government databases;

- b) adopt interoperable platforms and data-sharing standards in accordance with Republic Act No. 11055, otherwise known as the Philippine Identification System Act, and the Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the Data Privacy Act of 2012, and other applicable laws; and,
- c) be regularly updated, secured, and maintained to ensure the accuracy of beneficiary data, prevent duplication, and enable real-time monitoring of benefits utilization.

The DICT shall provide the necessary technical support, cybersecurity measures, and digital infrastructure, while the Board shall ensure that all participating agencies comply with system requirements and data integrity standards.

Section 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

Section 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 10. *Repealing Clause.* –All laws, decrees, orders, regulations, policies or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,