

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. 5263



Introduced by Representative
BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA.

AN ACT
BROADENING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF FILIPINO YOUTH BY
ALLOWING GRADUATES OF K-12 ENHANCED EDUCATION IN THE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
THE PNP LAW, R.A. 6975 AS AMENDED BY R.A. 8551

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Enhanced K to 12 Basic Education Program was envisioned to strengthen the country's human resource base by providing Filipino learners with mastery of fundamental competencies and practical skills necessary to join the workforce. One of its key objectives was to address the persistent problem of unemployment and underemployment by ensuring that high school graduates are adequately equipped for gainful employment, even without pursuing higher education.

However, despite the expanded curriculum, many graduates still face limited employment opportunities. Less than half of high school graduates proceed to

college, and even fewer complete a baccalaureate degree, largely due to financial constraints. This leaves a significant number of capable and educated young Filipinos unable to access professions that require a college diploma, regardless of their competence, discipline, and potential.

This bill seeks to correct this imbalance by opening more dignified and stable employment opportunities to senior high school graduates—specifically within the Philippine National Police (PNP). Under existing law, particularly Republic Act No. 8551 or the “Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998,” only college graduates may be accepted as police recruits. This requirement, while well-intentioned, has inadvertently excluded qualified K to 12 graduates who have been trained in values, discipline, and technical skills relevant to public service.

Through this proposed measure, K to 12 graduates may be allowed to apply for entry into the PNP, provided that they successfully pass all qualifying examinations and meet all general qualifications prescribed by law, including height, weight, age, and moral fitness requirements. This initiative not only recognizes the adequacy of the K to 12 curriculum in preparing students for the workforce but also democratizes access to public service professions by leveling the playing field for the children of poor and working-class families.

By enabling competent senior high school graduates to serve as law enforcers, this bill upholds the principles of equal opportunity, inclusivity, and social mobility to a just and progressive society.

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


HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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

Section 1. – It is a declared policy of the State that the youth plays a vital role in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. Through this legislation, the opportunities for Filipino youth will be broadened by opening the admission of the Philippine National Police (PNP) to graduates of the K-12 enhanced education program.

Sec. 2. – The existing provisions on the General Qualifications for Appointment in the PNP in RA 6975, as amended by RA 8551, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- ”a) A citizen of the Philippines;
- b) A person of good moral conduct;
- c) Must have passed the psychiatric/psychological, drug and physical tests to be administered by the PNP or by any NAPOLCOM accredited government hospital for the purpose of determining physical and mental health;
- d) Must ~~[possess a formal baccalaureate degree from a recognized institution of learning]~~ **HAVE COMPLETED THE K-12 ENHANCED EDUCATION PROGRAM;**
- e) Must be eligible in accordance with the standards set by the Commission;
- f) Must not have been dishonorably discharged from the military employment or dismissed for cause from any civilian position in the Government;
- g) Must not have been convicted by final judgment of an offense or crime involving moral turpitude;

- h) Must be at least one meter and sixty-two centimeters (1.62 m.) in height for male and one meter and fifty-seven centimeters (1.57 m.) for female;
- i) Must weight not more or less than five kilograms (5 kgs.) from the standard weight corresponding to his or her height, age, and sex; and,
- j) For a new applicant, must not be less than twenty-one (21) nor more than thirty (30) years of age: except for the last qualification, the above-enumerated qualifications shall be continuing in character and an absence of any one of them at any given time shall be a ground for separation or retirement from the service: Provided, that PNP members who are already in the service upon the effectivity of this Act shall be given at least two (2) more years to obtain the minimum educational qualification and one (1) year to satisfy the weight requirement.

x x x ”

Sec. 3. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,


HON. BRIAN POE, PHD, MNSA
Representative
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List