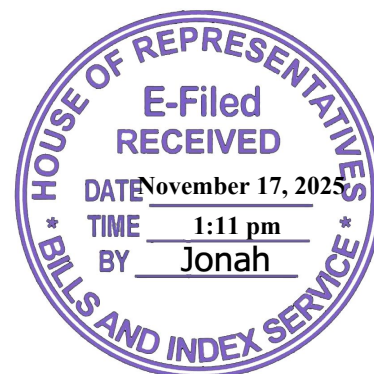


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6043**



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**Introduced by:**

**HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution recognizes the duty of citizens to render service to the State when required by law. As it provides:

*“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.” — 1987 Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 4*

In 2002, Congress enacted the National Service Training Program (NSTP) law, which made the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) optional and voluntary:

*“The Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), which is hereby made optional and voluntary upon the effectivity of this Act.” — RA 9163, Sec. 3*

Since then, ROTC enrollment and completion have markedly declined, raising concerns about the stability of the Armed Forces’ reserve manpower and the nation’s capacity to respond to external threats, disasters, and other security exigencies. Current geopolitical tensions in the West Philippine Sea and the need for robust civil–military support during emergencies underscore the importance of a reliable, trained reserve force consistent with the policy framework of the Citizen Armed Force or Reserve Force law.


This bill restores compulsory Basic ROTC at the senior high school level to strengthen citizenship formation and national preparedness. It emphasizes a modern program of instruction that integrates:

- Ethics of service, patriotism and nationalism, respect for human rights, discipline, leadership, and civic responsibility;
- Basic military training sufficient for defense preparedness and civil–military operations; and

- Civic training to mobilize youth for disaster risk reduction and management, environmental protection, public health, education support, human and civil rights awareness, and lawful community engagement.

By aligning compulsory Basic ROTC with the Constitution's civic duty mandate and updating content to include human rights and civic competencies, this measure seeks to produce disciplined, service-oriented graduates who can augment the Reserve Force and volunteer corps when the public interest so requires.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.

  
**CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP**  
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

Republic of the Philippines  
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**HOUSE BILL NO. 6043**

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**Introduced by:**

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**AN ACT**

**MANDATING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, ORGANIZATION, AND ADMINISTRATION OF BASIC RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) IN GRADES 11 AND 12 IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CITIZEN ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT”, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 *the “Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Act.”*

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Constitutional Policy.** — It is the policy of the State to strengthen citizenship formation, civic consciousness, and national defense preparedness by developing a trained, disciplined, and service-oriented youth. Consistent with law, the Government may call upon citizens to render personal military or civil service under conditions provided by law.

**SECTION 3. Coverage.** — Basic ROTC is hereby mandated for all students enrolled in Grades 11 and 12 in public and private senior high schools, including those under the technical-vocational-livelihood track and schools under the jurisdiction or supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), subject to exemptions under Section 8.

**SECTION 4. Establishment and Nature of the Program.** —

- (a) Basic ROTC is a two (2)-year program integrated into the senior high school curriculum to develop patriotism, leadership, discipline, respect for human rights and the rule of law, disaster readiness, and basic defense competencies, and to contribute to the pool of reservists under RA 7077.
- (b) The program shall not be used for political or partisan activity, indoctrination into any particular ideology, or any hazing, abuse, or degrading treatment. All program activities shall comply with human rights, humanitarian law, child protection, and anti-hazing laws and policies.

**SECTION 5. Program of Instruction (POI).** — The POI shall cover:

- (a) Citizenship and Values: ethics of public service; patriotism and nationalism; constitutionalism; respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; appreciation of national heroes; civic duties; and responsible digital citizenship;
- (b) Leadership and Discipline: small-unit leadership, communications, first aid, and physical fitness;
- (c) Basic Defense Preparedness: drill and ceremonies; basic field skills; individual readiness; civil-military operations; and unit organization; Provided, That no student below eighteen (18) years of age shall take a direct part in hostilities;
- (d) Civic Readiness: disaster risk reduction and management; community health support; environmental protection; education support; and lawful community safety activities.

**SECTION 6. Standards, Accreditation, and Safety.** —

- (a) The Department of National Defense (DND), DepEd, and TESDA shall jointly set competency standards, safety protocols, and accreditation requirements for instructors and training sites, including medical clearance, insurance, and incident reporting systems.
- (b) Training shall be conducted only in accredited facilities and under qualified instructors. Live-fire exercises are prohibited for senior high school trainees. The use of inert training aids shall observe strict safety protocols.

**SECTION 7. Management and Organization.** —

- (a) DepEd and TESDA shall exercise academic and administrative supervision over Basic ROTC delivery in their respective schools and programs. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through its Reserve Commands, shall provide technical supervision, training support, and quality assurance, and shall organize ROTC units consistent with RA 7077.
- (b) The AFP shall establish a dedicated office within the Reserve Commands to supervise and administer the senior high school Basic ROTC, in coordination with DepEd and TESDA.

**SECTION 8. Exemptions and Alternative Service. —**

- (a) Exemptions may be granted to: (1) Students certified as physically or psychologically unfit by an AFP medical officer or authorized government physician, upon recommendation of the school; (2) Students who have completed equivalent or superior military training recognized by DND; (3) Student-athletes designated as official varsity players during the training period; and (4) Students granted exemption for other meritorious reasons as may be defined in the IRR.
- (b) Conscientious Objectors: Students with sincerely held religious beliefs or conscientious objection to military training shall, upon approval, complete an Alternative Civic Service Track equivalent in duration and rigor, focusing on DRRM, public health, environmental programs, and other civic tasks under DND/DepEd/TESDA supervision.

**SECTION 9. Completion and Graduation Requirement. —** Completion of Basic ROTC or the approved Alternative Civic Service Track is a requirement for senior high school graduation, without prejudice to due process for exemptions or deferments.

**SECTION 10. Advance ROTC Pathways. —** Students who volunteer for Advance ROTC in higher education shall be governed by Sections 40, 42, and 43 of RA 7077, on screening, training, uniforms and supplies, and scholarship incentives, as may be updated by the IRR of this Act and relevant issuances.

**SECTION 11. Incentives and Benefits. —**

- (a) Subject to qualifications prescribed by law and regulations, graduates of Basic ROTC shall be eligible for preferential consideration for enlistment, lateral entry, or commissions, as applicable, in the AFP, Philippine National

Police (PNP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP);

- (b) Students undergoing Basic ROTC shall have accident insurance and access to emergency medical care during authorized training activities, at no cost to the student;
- (c) Basic and Advance ROTC cadets shall have access privileges to AFP commissary and exchange services subject to AFP regulations.

**SECTION 12. Grievance, Protection, and Accountability. —**

- (a) ROTC Grievance Board. — A Board is hereby created composed of: one (1) DND representative; two (2) DepEd representatives (the senior as Chair); one (1) TESDA representative for TVL-track matters; and one (1) independent representative from a recognized child protection or human rights office as observer. The Board shall receive, investigate, and resolve complaints on abuse, corruption, hazing, or politicization; ensure program adherence to HR/IHL and child protection standards; and recommend sanctions and reforms.
- (b) School Responsibility. — Schools shall exercise special parental authority and ensure compliance with safety protocols. Violations shall be subject to penalties under applicable laws and regulations and administrative sanctions by DepEd/TESDA and the DND/AFP, after due process.

**SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** — Within ninety (90) days from effectivity, the DND, DepEd, and TESDA shall jointly promulgate the IRR, after consultations with the AFP, Commission on Human Rights, Commission on Higher Education (for Advance ROTC pathways), LGUs, and relevant stakeholders. The IRR shall include detailed POI, safety and medical protocols, accreditation standards, exemption and alternative service procedures, data privacy, and grievance processes.

**SECTION 14. Reporting and Oversight.** — The DND, DepEd, and TESDA shall submit an annual report to the President and the appropriate Committees of Congress on program implementation, safety incidents and resolutions, exemptions and alternative service uptake, reservist augmentation, and recommendations. Program data shall respect privacy and child protection standards.

**SECTION 15. Appropriations.** — The amounts necessary for the initial implementation shall be charged against the current appropriations of the

concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 16. Amendments to Republic Act No. 7077.** — Pertinent provisions of RA 7077 are hereby amended or supplemented to the extent necessary to (a) recognize Basic ROTC at the senior high school level as a source of reservists; (b) authorize AFP Reserve Commands to organize and supervise senior high school ROTC units with DepEd/TESDA; and (c) align screening, training, and benefits for Advance ROTC volunteers.

**SECTION 17. Relation to RA 9163.** — Nothing in this Act shall repeal the optional and voluntary character of ROTC at the tertiary level under RA 9163. This Act exclusively mandates Basic ROTC for senior high school, without prejudice to NSTP components and Advance ROTC policies applicable to higher education.

**SECTION 18. Separability Clause.** — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 19. Repealing Clause.** — Pertinent provisions of Republic Act No. 7077, or the “Citizens Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act,” and all laws, decrees, orders, ordinances, rules and regulations, and other issuances or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are henceforth repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 20. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**