

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6773**



Introduced by Honorable Representative Laarni Lavin Roque
4th District, Bukidnon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 4, Article XVI of the 1987 Constitution specifically provides that:

“The Armed Forces of the Philippines shall be composed of a citizen armed force which shall undergo military training and serve as may be provided by law. It shall keep a regular force necessary for the security of the State.”

By virtue of such, Republic Act No. 7077 otherwise known as the “Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act” was enacted on June 27, 1991. Section 7, Article III of the aforementioned Act provides that:

“The mission of the Citizen Armed Force, alternately referred to as the Reserve Force, is to provide the base for the expansion of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the event of war, invasion or rebellion; to assist in relief and rescue during disasters or calamities; to assist in socioeconomic development; and to assist in the operation and maintenance of essential government or private utilities in the furtherance of the overall mission.”

While the draft Implementing Rules and Regulations to the three-decade-old law has been submitted by the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Retiree and Reservist Affairs, OJ9, to the Department of National Defense, there is an urgent need in pursuing the sunset review of the said Act to address the pressing gaps and challenges in the implementation of the law amid the passage of subsequent laws such as the Local Government Code in 1991 and the Disaster Reduction and Risk Management Act of 2010.

For context and to stress the importance of the Reservists as Force Multipliers for a country's Armed Forces in times of Wars and Conflicts, we can cite 2 recent and concrete examples which are:

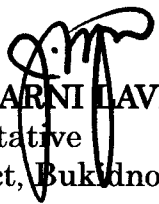
1. The Israel Defense Force (IDF) was comprised of around 170,000 active personnel and it mobilized around 360,000 reservists after the October 7, 2023 terror attack forming a 530,000-strong total defense force;
2. The Armed Forces of Ukraine was comprised of around 900,000 active personnel and it mobilized around 1.2 million forming a 2.2million-strong military force.

In the case of the Philippines, the AFP has an active personnel of around 157,000 backed by 120,000 ready reserves as of 2023. Its target for trained Reservists for 2026 is 1million, and for 2028 is 1.6million. Once we achieve these goals, we will have a 1.150million for 2026, and 1.8million strong Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The amendment and updating of Republic Act No. 7077 are urgently needed as a responsive and adaptive Reserve Force is essential in ensuring for the Philippines' national security and defense in an ever-changing world.

This bill was previously filed by Representative Michael Romero of 1-PACMAN Partylist in the 19th Congress.

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



HON. LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE
Representative
4th District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION, TRAINING, EQUIPAGE,
MAINTENANCE DEVELOPMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF
THE CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE
PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077, AS
AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. The Full Title of Republic Act No. 7077, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“An Act Providing for the [~~Development, Administration, Organization, Training, Maintenance~~] **ORGANIZATION, TRAINING, EQUIPAGE, MAINTENANCE DEVELOPMENT, ADMINISTRATION** and Utilization of the Citizen Armed Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and for Other Purposes.”

SEC. 2. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec 10. Affiliated Reserves – As the President shall approve upon recommendation of the Secretary of National Defense, certain private and government entities, corporations, establishments, and organizations at the national, provincial, and municipal levels that provide essential public services, **AND DEFENSE MATERIAL AND SERVICES** such as water, light, transportation, communications, **HEALTH SERVICES, UTILITY SERVICES, SUPPLIES AND LOGISTICAL SERVICES, EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES, FIREFIGHTING SERVICES, ENGINEERING**

SERVICES, MUNITION AND AMMUNITION SERVICES, SPACE INDUSTRY, POWER SERVICES, FOOD SERVICES, PRODUCTION SUSTAINMENT, CYBER SECURITY, AUTONOMOUS UNDERWATER VEHICLES , RADAR, SECURITY SERVICES, CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES which are necessary to support the prosecution of national defense plans or to meet an emergency shall be organized as affiliated units shall be constituted by appropriate orders to be issued by the Secretary of National Defense, given unit designations and assigned to the appropriate reserve components of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). The roster of the officials and employees of these affiliated units shall be included in the orders of constituting the units. These units shall be so utilized in times of war or emergency to ensure the continuous and uninterrupted provision of the essential services they are rendering.”

SEC. 3. Section 11 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 11. Citizen Soldiers. —The citizen soldiers, alternately referred to as reservists, who compose the Reserve Force are those reservists of the Armed Forces of the Philippines who are incorporated into the Reserve Force, as follows:

(1) Graduates of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) basic and advanced courses and who were issued orders as enlisted reservists or reserve officers of the AFP;

(2) Graduates of authorized basic military training instructions who, as a result thereof, were issued orders as enlisted reservists or reserve officers;

(3) Ex-servicemen of **OTHER UNIFORMED SERVICES SUCH AS PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY (NAMRIA), PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA), JUDICIAL MARSHAL, BUREAU OF CORRECTION (BUCOR) AND RETIRED OFFICERS OF THE AFP** and other armed forces that have diplomatic relations with the Philippines who were honorably discharged or retired from the service and who are Filipino citizens upon their application; **PROVIDED FURTHER THAT UPON INCORPORATION INTO THE**

RESERVE FORCE, THE RANKS OF OTHER UNIFORMED PERSONNEL SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXISTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE AFP AND OTHER LAWS.

(4) Recognized World War II guerrillas who were honorably discharged from the service;

(5) Commissioned and noncommissioned officers under the Affiliated Reserves category and graduates of the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP); and

(6) Commissioned, noncommissioned officers and privates under the existing laws including those procured under project 36-70 and included in the present AFP roster before the enactment of this Act and those to be commissioned or enlisted after the enactment of this Act.”

SEC. 4. Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec 14. Compulsory Military Registration Training – All ~~[male]~~ **ABLE-BODIED CITIZENS** between ages of eighteen (18) and twenty-five (25) who are not reservists shall be required to register for military instruction. ~~[Registration shall take place in suitable registration places to be prescribed by the city or municipal government between the dates of April First and Seventh commencing one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act. Biennial registrations shall be held during the same period in succeeding years.]~~

SEC. 5. Section 19 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 19. Board of Canvassers.

There is hereby created a board of canvassers, one (1) for each province and chartered city, for the purpose of selecting the registrants who will undergo compulsory military training as provided for in Section 18 hereof. The board shall be composed of the following:

In Provinces:

Division Superintendent of Schools as Chairman

Provincial ~~[Fiscal]~~ **PROSECUTOR** as Member

The appropriate Military Commander **AS THE** ~~[Secretary of National Defense]~~ **AFP MAJOR SERVICES** may designate as Member

In Chartered Cities:

City Superintendent of Schools as Chairman

City ~~[Fiscal]~~ **PROSECUTOR** as Member

Chief of Police as Member”

SEC. 6. Section 28 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 28. Appeal from Decision of the Acceptance Board. —Where the acceptance board denies the claim of an individual for deferment, he may within thirty (30) days after receipt of written notification by the board appeal his case in writing directly to the Secretary of National Defense. ~~[The Secretary of National Defense shall render a decision thereon within sixty (60) days from the date of filing of the appeal. The appellant shall be accorded the right to enjoy the right to be heard by himself and counsel and to present evidence in his behalf. The decision of the Secretary of National Defense or his duly authorized representative shall be final.]~~”

SEC. 7. Section 33 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec 33. Draftee Training and Service.— As may be ordered by the President, **ALL ABLE-BODIED** ~~[male]~~ citizens the ages of eighteen (18) and thirty-five (35) shall be called to training and active service for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) months, broken down into a training period of not more than six (6) months and an active service period of not more than eighteen (18) months. Registrants will be selected for draftee training and service in accordance with Sections 14 to 26 hereof. A draftee may volunteer and be accepted for an extension of active service of not more than twelve (12) consecutive months, after which his services as draftee shall be terminated. A draftee during the period of his active duty service to include the extension of such service is entitled to receive all the pay and allowances due his grade as received by any member of the regular force: *Provided*, That, upon termination of his draftee service, he shall receive a separation gratuity of not less than one (1) month salary for every year of his service to include the six (6) months of training upon

the condition that a period of six (6) months shall be considered a complete year for purposes of this gratuity.”

SEC. 8. Section 36 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec 36: Citizen Military Training Center

There shall be an established at least one (1) training center in every Province intended for the conduct of BCMT with a minimum capacity of one (1) Infantry Rifle Company at a time. ~~[These training centers shall form part of the reserve component organization of the major services and shall be referred to as citizen military training centers.]~~

IN COORDINATION WITH THE AFP, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESIGNATION, ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF MOBILIZATION/TRAINING CENTERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS.”

SEC. 9. Section 50 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec 50. Organization for Maintenance and Administration of the Reserve Force – The major services shall be responsible for the administration, training, equipage, and maintenance of their respective reserve components subject to the regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of National Defense. In the General Headquarters AFP and in each Major Service Headquarters, there shall be a staff division of the level of the principal coordinating staff which shall be dedicated to planning and policy formulation for the administration, development, organization, training, equipage, maintenance and utilization of their respective Reserve Force component. The Chief of Staff, AFP shall create ~~[an AFP Reserve Command]~~ **THE RESERVE FORCE SERVICE, AFP** within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act **THAT WILL SERVE AS AN INTEGRATOR OF CAPABILITIES, SYNCHRONIZATION, DECONFLICTION, COORDINATION, AND AWARENESS OF MAJOR SERVICES RESERVE FORCE COMPONENT UNITS.** In the case of the major services, there shall further be a separate unit dedicated to the implementation of such plans and policies. In staffing the command structure of these units, preference shall be given to qualified reserve officers in the active service and integrees.”

SEC. 10. Section 53 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 53. ACTIVE DUTY TOUR ~~[FOR TRAINING]~~ OF RESERVISTS.

– To improve their professional competence and leadership qualities, the Reservists in the Ready Reserve Units shall be called to active duty for a period not exceeding two (2) years without extension: Provided, that the quota for such active duty shall as far as practicable be proportionately distributed to the provinces and cities based on their reserve units, with priority to the [units] **RESERVIST OFFICERS AND ENLISTED RESERVISTS** of ready reserve **UNITS**: Provided, further, that; the Reservists that were called to active duty shall as far as practicable serve in the region of their reserve unit assignment. A Reservist who has served his tour shall not be called again to active duty until after five (5) years, except in case of mobilization.

IN ADDITION, THE RESERVISTS CALLED FOR ACTIVE DUTY TOUR FOR TRAINING (ADTT) SHALL BE COMPENSATED ACCORDING TO HIS/HER RANK PROVIDED THAT THERE IS NO DOUBLE COMPENSATION FOR THOSE EMPLOYED. TERMINATION OF SERVICE EMPLOYMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE IN EFFECT UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF ADTT."

SEC. 11. Section 54 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 54. CLASSIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE ~~[OF READINESS]~~ OF RESERVE UNITS. — RESERVE units ~~[which are composed of reservists of the Ready Reserve]~~ shall be classified as to degree of readiness to respond to the call to service, as follows:

(1) Ready Reserve [I]— RESERVE Units classified as Ready Reserve [I] shall be maintained in a high degree of readiness as to be ready for operational employment in not more than seven (7) days after activation. The individual and crew served weapons and individual clothing and equipment shall be ready for distribution upon their activation. The whereabouts of their reservists shall be constantly ascertained. As necessary, these units shall carry an excess of twenty percent (20%) of their authorized personnel strength to compensate for those who may fail to report or be late in reporting for duty.

2) ~~[Ready Reserve II— Units classified as Ready Reserve II shall be maintained in a degree of readiness as to be ready for operational employment in not more than fifteen (15) days.]~~ STANDBY RESERVE. — RESERVE UNITS CLASSIFIED AS STANDBY RESERVES SHALL BE MAINTAINED IN A DEGREE OF

READINESS AS STANDBY FOR OPERATIONAL EMPLOYMENT IN TIMES OF WAR OR INVASION. THE STANDBY RESERVE UNITS (SRUS) ARE RESERVE UNITS ORGANIZED AND MAINTAINED THROUGH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY TESTS TO UPDATE THEIR RECORDS AND PRESENT ADDRESSES, AMONG OTHERS. THE SRUS ARE MOBILIZED ONLY IN TIMES OF WAR OR INVASION THROUGH JOINT APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

3) RETIRED RESERVES. A LIST OF RESERVISTS CLASSIFIED AS RETIRED RESERVES SHALL BE MAINTAINED AS THE POOL OF AUGMENTATION AND REPLACEMENT TO THE PERSONNEL OF READY RESERVE AND STANDBY RESERVE UNITS. THE RETIRED RESERVES SHALL COMPOSED OF RESERVISTS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED FOR RETIREMENT THROUGH LENGTH OF SERVICE, OLD AGE, OR DISABILITY. SIXTY-FIVE (65) YEARS OF AGE SHALL BE THE RETIREMENT AGE FOR RESERVISTS.

~~[The Chief of Staff, AFP shall select and recommend to the Secretary of National Defense the reserve units under Ready Reserve I and Ready Reserve II: Provided, That in areas threatened by insurgency, there shall be at least one (1) unit of infantry battalion strength under readiness status of Ready Reserve I.]”~~

SEC. 12. Section 55 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec 55. *Mobilization Stock* – The minimum essential individual and organizational equipment and supplies **ON MOVE, SHOOT, COMMUNICATE AND SEE REQUIREMENTS** of Reservists shall be procured, stored and maintained **AT THE DESIGNATED MOBILIZATION CENTER** to enhance the rapid transition to readiness required for employment in the shortest possible time.”

SEC. 13. Section 59 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 59 Mobilization. - The utilization of the Reserve Force in times of emergency to meet threats to national security shall be through mobilization:

(1) Full Mobilization. - Full mobilization shall be through the joint act of Congress and the President. When full mobilization is ordered, **THE NECESSARY [all]** units of the Ready Reserves and Standby

Reserves shall be activated. **RETIRED RESERVES SHALL BE CALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY AS NECESSARY.** The reservists constituting them are called to active duty, and the units activated are placed on operational readiness. All other reservists not assigned to any unit or those assigned to reserve pools shall be organized into replacement units;

(2) Partial Mobilization – Partial mobilization shall be through the joint act of Congress and the President. When partial mobilization is ordered, only the units of the Ready Reserve as are necessary to meet the threat will be activated, the reservists assigned to these units are called to active duty and the activated units are placed on operational readiness. The President will specify the units to be activated; and

(3) Selective Mobilization – Selective mobilization shall be by authority of the President. Selective mobilization may be ordered to meet a local threat or emergency situation. When so ordered, only selected units of the Ready Reserve of the localities involved are activated and the reservists assigned to them are called to active duty; or active auxiliary units are organized and volunteer reservists are called to active auxiliary service for the purpose, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of National Defense may prescribe.”

SEC. 14. Section 66 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 66. Funding – THERE SHALL BE ALLOCATION OF ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR RESERVE FORCE DEVELOPMENT AS DETERMINED BY THE AFP MAJOR SERVICES AND AFPRESCOM TO ADDRESS THE ORGANIZATION, TRAINING, EQUIPAGE, MAINTENANCE, DEVELOPMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND UTILIZATION OF THE CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES. THE SAID FUNDS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION ACT, WHICH SHALL BE FIVE PERCENT (5%) OVER AND ABOVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE AFP.”

~~[All funds previously appropriated for the administration, development and training of the reserve component of the AFP and which will subsequently and hereafter be appropriated for the purpose shall be used exclusively for the purpose shall be used exclusively for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Act.~~

~~To sustain the efficient and effective administration, organization, training, maintenance and utilization of Ready Reserve units and keep them appropriately and adequately equipped an in a state of readiness, as well as provide for the adequate training of citizen soldiers or reservists, adequate funds for this purpose, as may be requested or recommended by the AFP, shall be appropriated and made available on a continuing basis.~~

~~The President shall utilize a portion of the Military Assistance Fund available from any source to augment the appropriation for the Reserve Force.]~~

SEC. 15. Section 70 of Republic Act No. 7077 is hereby amended to read as follows and the succeeding Sections shall be renumbered accordingly:

“SEC. 70. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS – THE DND, DOJ, DEPED AND DILG SHALL JOINTLY FORMULATE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THIS ACT WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT.”

SEC. 16. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 17. Repealing Clause. – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation, contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 18. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,