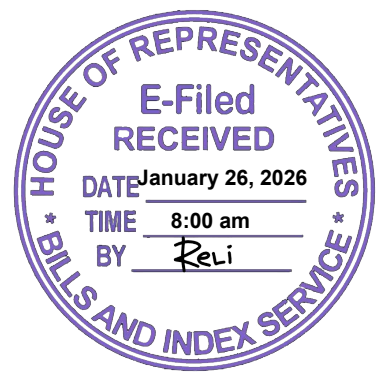


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 7248

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XVI Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution provides,

“SECTION 7. The State shall provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans....”

One of laws enacted to because of this Constitutional provision was Presidential Decree No. 577, EXEMPTING DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO DIE OR BECOME INCAPACITATED IN LINE OF DUTY FROM THE PAYMENT OF TUITION AND MATRICULATION FEES IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

This law is for our heroes who have sacrificed a lot to defend our country. The dependents of the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines also share in the sacrifice and the burden of defending our country.

It is high time to amend this law to give more benefits to members of our military and their dependents.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested,


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. 7248

AN ACT
AMENDING SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 577

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

Section 1. Section 2 of Presidential Decree No. 577 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 2. Scope and Limitations.

- a. The benefit shall be extended to three (3) dependents of military personnel in the active service who have died or were incapacitated in line of duty since September 21, 1972 and those who shall die and may be incapacitated in line of duty hereafter;
- b. This benefit may be enjoyed for a maximum of fifteen (15) school years;
- c. This benefit is transferable to any of the dependents of the military personnel, at the option of the next of kin, provided it will not exceed fifteen (15) school years;
- d. The surviving dependent spouse shall lose this benefit if they remarry before the age of 56 or are living with another person who has been recognized publicly as their spouse. However, they can regain their eligibility if the remarriage has been terminated by death or annulment;
- e. This benefit shall be available to the surviving dependent spouse within fifteen (15) years from the service member's date of death.
- f. This benefit shall be available to the surviving dependent children/minors until they reach the age of twenty-six (26) years if unutilized from the service member's time of death; however, this is subject to exceptions as deemed reasonable by the concerned office.
- g. Special Benefits: Dependents over the age of 14 with physical or mental disabilities that impair their ability to pursue an education may receive specialized vocational or restorative training, including speech and voice correction, language retraining, tip reading, auditory training, Braille reading and writing, and similar programs. Certain disabled surviving spouses are also entitled to this benefit.

- h. This benefit is without prejudice to other educational benefits previously being enjoyed by the military personnel or his dependents".

SEC 2. Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 577 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 3. Prerequisites and Standards

- a. Admission of grantees to any school shall be in accordance with existing laws and the admission policies of the school;
- b. As long as the grantees satisfactorily pass the course of instruction based on the approved standards of the schools, they shall continue to enjoy the benefits. In case of failure in any subject or in a school year, the benefit shall be suspended and the grantee, at their option, may retake the subjects failed, or repeat the entire school year, at their own expense.
- c. The benefit shall be terminated in case the grantee is expelled from the school or is convicted by any court for any crime involving moral turpitude."

SEC 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations – The Chief, Philippine National Police, shall revise and promulgate the Rules and Regulations necessary to ensure the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC 4. Repealing Clause. – Any law, decree, ordinance, or administrative circular not consistent with any provision of this Act is hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC 5. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,