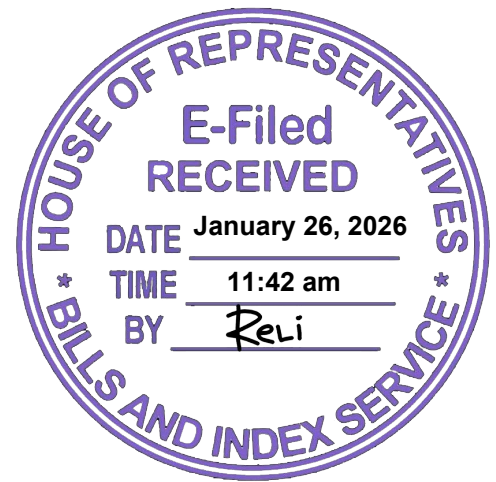


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7299

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

**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

Comprehensive Social Benefits for Uniformed Personnel Uniformed personnel and auxiliary service members are the frontline guardians of national security, public safety, and disaster response. Their unwavering commitment frequently subjects them to grave danger, exposing them to the constant risk of injury, permanent disability, or death in the line of duty. While existing laws offer some support, they lack up-to-date provisions to address the long-term needs of their families, who rely on them for educational support, daily expenses, and long-term livelihood security.

This bill intends to address the critical need to establish the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program Trust Fund dedicated to be a financial mechanism that will provide essential support, including medical assistance, financial compensation, rehabilitation support, and various other forms of social aid to qualified personnel and their dependents. By creating a structured and sustainable program, the state aims to provide a robust safety net that truly secures the welfare of those who serve and their families. It also assures our personnel that should they be wounded, rendered physically disabled or die in the line of duty, they and their loved ones will receive timely and comprehensive support

In view of the foregoing, the expeditious approval of this measure is respectfully sought.


HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "*Uniformed Personnel*
2 *Comprehensive Social Benefits Program Act*".

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to
5 accord its military and police the rightful and reasonable benefit in the performance
6 of their sworn duty in defending and securing the State, and maintaining peace, order
7 and safety in the country. Towards this end, it is imperative upon the State to provide
8 an institutionalized comprehensive social benefits program to provide for the
9 necessities and basic needs of uniformed personnel and auxiliary service members, as
10 well as their dependents and beneficiaries, especially after being killed, wounded or
11 rendered physically disabled in legitimate actions or operations sanctioned by the
12 government and the State.

13
14 **Sec. 3. Institutionalization of the Comprehensive Social Benefits**
15 **Program.** – The Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CSBP), or the Program, is
16 hereby institutionalized as a government mechanism to provide timely, appropriate
17 and rationalized assistance and benefits to elements of uniformed services and
18 qualified auxiliary services who become casualties in legitimate operations of their
19 respective organizations, and their qualified dependents and beneficiaries. The CSBP
20 shall provide for different types of benefits and assistance, including, but not limited

1 to: special financial assistance; shelter assistance; health and medical care assistance;
2 educational assistance; social welfare and cost of living assistance; and employment
3 assistance.

4
5 **Sec. 4. Coverage and Scope.** – The Program shall cover all uniformed
6 personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) including the Citizen Armed
7 Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) and CAFGU Active Auxiliary, Philippine National
8 Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail Management and
9 Penology (BJMP), Bureau of Corrections (BUCOR), and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)
10 who are killed, wounded or rendered physically disabled in legitimate actions or
11 operations, as well as their qualified dependents and beneficiaries.

12
13 **Sec. 5. Components of the Program.** – The benefits to be granted under
14 the Program shall include the following:

15
16 (a) Special Financial Assistance. – Provision of a lump sum fund for the death,
17 injury or total permanent physical disability suffered by qualified uniformed personnel
18 and auxiliary service members in the performance of their respective functions or as
19 a result of legitimate action or operations of their respective uniformed services;

20
21 (b) Educational Assistance. – Provision of educational assistance to dependents
22 of uniformed personnel and auxiliary service member concerned under existing
23 scholarship programs and study grants extended by the Department of National
24 Defense (DND), National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM), Department of the Interior
25 and Local Government (DILG), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and
26 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) which covers tuition
27 and other school fees, board and lodging expenses, transportation expenses, book
28 allowance, and other similar or analogous expenses;

29
30 (c) Shelter Assistance. – Provision of a housing unit located in uniformed
31 personnel housing sites, or provision of financial assistance for the construction,
32 repair, rehabilitation or improvement of new or existing housing unit on land owned
33 by the beneficiaries concerned, in coordination with the National Housing Authority
34 (NHA);

35
36 (d) Health and Medical Care Assistance. – Membership into the Universal Health
37 Care Program as indirect contributor, and provision of medicines and medical
38 assistance for hospitalization under the Medical Assistance to Indigent Patients
39 Program and other relevant programs of the Department of Health (DOH);

40
41 (e) Social Welfare and Cost of Living Assistance. – Enrolment as members in
42 the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of the Department of Social Welfare and
43 Development (DSWD) or, in lieu thereof, provision of a monthly subsidy of forty (40)
44 kilos of rice or its cash equivalent based on the prevailing market price;

45
46 (f) Employment Assistance. – Provision of such reasonable assistance for
47 employment of qualified beneficiaries to be facilitated by the uniformed services
48 concerned.

1
2 **Sec. 6. Conditions for Availment of Benefits under the Program.** – The
3 grant of assistance provided under this Act shall be in accordance with the following
4 conditions:

5 (a) The amounts and the applicability for each type of assistance shall be
6 determined on the basis of the severity of the physical or bodily damage and injury
7 sustained by an active officer or member of the AFP and the PNP in a legitimate action
8 or operation;
9

10 (b) The grant of assistance provided under this Act shall be uniform and equal
11 in each type and application, and shall ensure that the most reasonable and rightful
12 amount for each type assistance is given;
13

14 (c) Uniformed personnel and auxiliary service members concerned, as well as
15 their qualified beneficiaries, who received assistance provided under this Act may still
16 avail of other forms of assistance provided by other government agencies, subject to
17 the existing laws, rules, and regulations;
18

19 (d) The Education Assistance provided in Section 4 (b) of this Act shall be
20 prioritized in terms of provision to qualified beneficiaries and share in the allocation in
21 the Trust Fund created under Section 6 of this Act;
22

23 (e) The actual amount of assistance provided to uniformed personnel and
24 auxiliary service members concerned and their qualified beneficiaries under this Act
25 may be adjusted or modified by the President of the Philippines: *Provided*, That any
26 change or adjustment in the amounts for each type of assistance shall reflect changes
27 in pertinent social and economic indicators such as, but not limited to, the inflation
28 rate and consumer price index as determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority
29 (PSA) and other agencies concerned.
30

31 **Sec. 7. Creation of the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program Trust**
32 **Fund.** – To ensure the immediate and adequate provision of assistance provided for
33 in this Act, there is hereby constituted an irrevocable trust fund in the amount of
34 Twenty Billion Pesos (P20,000,000,000.00), to be known as the Comprehensive Social
35 Benefits Program Trust Fund, or the Fund. The Fund shall be perpetually maintained
36 and shall be used exclusively for the provisions of benefits identified under Section 4
37 of this Act: *Provided*, That assistance for uniformed personnel and qualified auxiliary
38 service members who suffered death, injury or total permanent total disability prior to
39 the effectivity of this Act shall be authorized to be sourced from the Fund: *Provided*,
40 *further*, That such amount shall be disbursed to intended beneficiaries no later than
41 two (2) years following the effectivity of this Act: *Provided, finally*, That the releases
42 from the Fund shall be approved by the CSBP Fund Board created under Section 7 of
43 this Act and shall be released directly to the agencies concerned.
44

45 **Sec. 8. Administration of the Fund.** – There is hereby created a CSBP Fund
46 Board, or the Board, to oversee the utilization of the Fund. The Board shall be
47 composed of sixteen (16) members as follows:
48

- 1 a) President of the Philippines as Chairperson;
2 b) Secretary of National Defense;
3 c) Secretary of the Interior and Local Government;
4 d) Secretary of Budget and Management;
5 e) Secretary of Social Welfare Development;
6 f) Secretary of Health;
7 g) Secretary of Finance;
8 h) Chairperson of the CHED;
9 i) Director-General of the TESDA;
10 j) General Manager of the NHA;
11 k) Chief of Staff of the AFP;
12 l) Chief of the PNP;
13 m) Chief of the BJMP;
14 n) Chief of the BFP;
15 o) Commandant of the PCG; and
16 p) Director-General of the BUCOR:

17
18 *Provided,* That the members of the Board shall be authorized to designate their
19 respective alternatives whose acts shall be considered as acts of their principals.

20
21 The Board shall formulate policies, implementing rules and regulations,
22 guidelines and other related functions to oversee, manage and supervise the
23 operations of the Fund. The Board may likewise in its discretion choose any or all the
24 types of assistance that may be granted and adjust their corresponding amounts
25 pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 of this Act.

26
27 **Sec. 9. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part of this Act is held
28 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid
29 and subsisting.

30
31 **Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, regulations, policies
32 or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act
33 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

34
35 **Sec. 11. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
36 publication the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

37
Approved,