



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

Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3908

Introduced by Honorable Emmanuel D. Pacquiao

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the restoration of mandatory military training for all students in all universities and colleges by reinstating Sections 38 and 39 of Republic Act (RA) No. 7077, otherwise known as the "*Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act.*"

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) is designed to provide military training to tertiary level students in order to motivate, train, organize and mobilize our youth for national defense preparedness. ROTC was institutionalized under Commonwealth Act No. 1, also known as "*The National Defense Act.*" Under this measure, every physically fit student was required to pursue a course of military instruction designed to qualify him for a commission as a third lieutenant in the Regular or Reserve Forces.

The National Defense Act was amended by Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1706, otherwise known as "*The National Service Law.*" The decree provides that each citizen shall render national service in any of the three main programs, namely: civic welfare service; law enforcement service; and military service.

The National Service Law was later amended by Republic Act No. 7077, otherwise known as the "*Citizen Armed Force or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act*" which provides for the mandatory taking of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC). The law requires the completion of the course as a requirement for all college students in acquiring their baccalaureate degree.

On June 27, 1991, Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "*National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001*," was approved. The program was enacted to enhance civic consciousness and defense preparedness in the youth by developing their ethics of service and patriotism while undergoing training in any three program components, namely: the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), Literacy Training Service and Civic Welfare Training Service. Under RA 9163, ROTC was made optional and voluntary.

The proposed measure seeks the restoration of the mandatory Reserve Officers' Training Course as provided in RA 7077 to equip our youth with necessary knowledge and skills in securing and defending the country in times of national emergency. This bill will in effect repeal RA 9163.

Consistent with the constitutional mandate that the government may call upon the people to defend the state, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE RESTORATION OF MANDATORY MILITARY TRAINING FOR STUDENTS IN ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES BY REINSTATING SECTIONS 38 AND 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CITIZEN ARMED FORCE OR ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVIST ACT"

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

SECTION 1. Sections 38 and 39 of Republic Act No. 7077, as previously amended by Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the "*National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001*," is hereby restored to read as follows:

"SEC. 38. *Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)*. – Military training for students enrolled in colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning is mandatory pursuant to the provisions of the National Defense Act and the 1987 Constitution.

SEC. 39. *Establishment of ROTC Units in Schools.* – At such colleges, universities and similar institutions of learning that request for the conduct of military training in their institutions, there shall be established and maintained Reserve Officers' Training Corps units as the Secretary of National Defense may approve, which shall conduct military training for the students of such institutions for the purpose of producing enlisted and officer reservists. The program of instruction shall be prescribed by the Secretary of National Defense and may include instruction to prepare female students for military service: *Provided,* That such course of instruction shall not exceed two (2) academic years in the case of enlisted reservists, and four (4) academic years in the case of officer reservists which shall include as necessary summer or probationary training of not more than sixty (60) consecutive days. The first two (2) years of ROTC training, which is mandatory, shall hereafter be referred to as basic ROTC while the second two (2) years after said basic ROTC, which is voluntary, shall hereafter be referred to as advance ROTC. The allocation of ROTC units to the various major services of the AFP shall conform to the projected manpower needs of their respective reserve components.”

SEC. 2. Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the “*National Service Training Program (NSTP) Act of 2001,*” is hereby repealed. All other

laws, executive orders, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby amended and modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,