

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



22 DEC 19 P1 :45

**SENATE**  
S. No. 1624

RECEIVED BY

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Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS TO THE CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION, BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The importance of public service in a democratic country can never be overemphasized. The 1987 Constitution declared as part of its principles and state policies embedded in Article II thereof that the primary duty of the Government is to serve and protect the people, and that the maintenance of peace and order, protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of general welfare are essential to the Philippines.


This is the very essence of government service as it becomes clear that the very mandate of Philippine Government is to serve the best interest of the Filipino citizen.

Among the public servants that we have, there are those who are called for duty that put their lives on the line as a necessary consequence – soldiers, policemen, firefighters and others whose duty is to ensure the safety, peace and order of this country. Specifically, these are the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Philippine Coast Guard. Casualty in the line of duty is a normal matter to the performance of their mandate. Their families suffer in silence bearing in mind that the death of their uniformed loved one had contributed to the wellness of their country.

The Philippines should be a government that remembers the contribution of its servants. In so doing, the uniformed personnel must be assured that their loved ones, especially their offspring, can depend on the government that it will provide in case of unfortunate events during their service. The risks inherent in their duties' performance should not put the welfare of their families to chance. The Government must return the favor when life was given to protect the country.

For this purpose, this bill intends to provide educational scholarships to the surviving children or beneficiaries of such government personnel. This is the least we can do for the sacrifices of our fallen heroes.

Therefore, urgent approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Villar', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**MARK A. VILLAR**

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**PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS TO THE CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF**  
**THE UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE,**  
**ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION,**  
**BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, PHILIPPINE COAST**  
**GUARD, NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, PHILIPPINE DRUG**  
**ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, AND BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS,**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 Educational Assistance and Benefits Act of 2022”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared policy of the State to  
4 recognize the vital role of the members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP),  
5 Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau of Jail  
6 Management and Penology (BJMP), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), National Bureau  
7 of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and Bureau of  
8 Corrections (BuCor) in the maintenance of peace and public order in the country and  
9 to ensure that the dependents of those who are killed in action or are permanently  
10 incapacitated while in the performance of their duty or by reason of their office or  
11 position are provided with educational assistance and benefits.

12 Sec. 3. *Permanent Incapacity; Definition.* – Permanent Incapacity shall refer  
13 to physical or mental-ill health or infirmity which is: (i) permanent; (ii) prevents a  
14 member from pursuing his normal employment; (iii) seriously impairs his earning

1 capacity; and the reason for incapacity occurred while the personnel is in active  
2 duty.

3       *Sec. 4. Grant of Educational Assistance and Benefits.* – The surviving children  
4 of the members of the AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor who are  
5 killed or permanently incapacitated while in the performance of duty or by reason of  
6 the office being served or position presently holding shall automatically and without  
7 qualification be extended to full scholarship from elementary to tertiary level  
8 whether baccalaureate, formal or non-formal education or training program in a  
9 non-exclusive school or institution. The scholarship privilege shall include, but not  
10 limited to, payment of tuition and miscellaneous fees, allowance for books, school  
11 supplies, uniform, food and transportation.

12       *Sec. 5. Uniformed Personnel Scholarship Board.* – The scholarship funds  
13 collected hereunder shall be managed and administered by an inter-agency  
14 scholarship board to be known as the Uniformed Personnel Scholarship Board, which  
15 shall be created and formally organized within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of  
16 this Act. The Board shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of the  
17 Interior and Local Government and Secretary of the Department of National Defense  
18 as Chairpersons and one (1) member each to represent the AFP, PNP, BFP, PDEA,  
19 PCG, NBI and BuCor. The Commission on Higher Education and Department of  
20 Education shall also be a member of the said scholarship board.

21       The Board shall serve as the policy-making body vested with the authority to  
22 come up with the mechanics, scope, limitations and requirements for scholarship  
23 program pursuant to the objectives of this Act. The Board shall, however, delegate  
24 the responsibility to implement the screening, admission, disqualification and other  
25 scholarship-related avilment process to the respective scholarship bodies of the  
26 AFP, PNP, BFP, BJMP, NBI, PDEA, PCG and BuCor, in accordance with the guidelines  
27 to be prescribed by the Board.

28       *Sec. 6. Authority to accept donations; Tax Exemption.* – The Board shall have  
29 the authority to accept donations, contributions, grants in cash or in kind, from  
30 appropriate sources, domestic or foreign. Said donations shall be used exclusively to  
31 complement the funding requirements of the scholarship program subject to existing  
32 government accounting rules and regulations; Provided, that any donation,

1 contribution or financial aid which may be made to the Board shall be exempt from  
2 taxes of any kind and shall constitute as allowable deductions in full from the income  
3 of the donors, contributors or givers for income tax purposes. Furthermore, the  
4 Board is authorized to invest so much of the idle funds as may be necessary for the  
5 purpose of generating additional revenue for the benefit of the scholarship program.

6 *Sec. 7. Appropriation.* – The amount necessary to fund the educational  
7 assistance and benefits specified above shall be included in the respective annual  
8 budgets of the agencies aforementioned to be enacted as part of their annual  
9 General Appropriations Act; Provided, that any deficiencies in the financial  
10 requirements may be taken from savings on their respective personnel services and  
11 the Mutual Personnel Benefits Fund (MPBF); Provided, further, that the Uniformed  
12 Personnel Scholarship Board may, consistent with Section 5 of this Act, identify,  
13 develop, and generate additional sources of funds to further support this scholarship  
14 program.

15 *Sec. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Uniformed Personnel  
16 Scholarship Board herein created shall formulate and issue, within sixty (60) days  
17 from its creation, the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
18 implementation of this Act.

19 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* – If any provisions or part hereof is held illegal,  
20 invalid, or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise  
21 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

22 *Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.* –All laws, presidential decrees or issuance,  
23 executive orders, letter of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations or  
24 parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act are  
25 hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

26 *Sec. 11. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after  
27 its complete publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation in the  
28 country or in the Official Gazette.

*Approved,*