

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**House Bill No. 2338**



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**Introduced by Honorable Sherwin Gatchalian**

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### **Explanatory Note**

As in most countries like Taiwan, South Korea, Canada, United Kingdom and Russia, the Reserved Officers Training Corps (ROTC) is mandatory upon its male citizens. It behooves upon these nations to tap their youth to be trained and developed in military training and exercises for civic and defense preparedness.

On June 25, the Association of Generals and Flag Officers, Inc. (AGFO) has issued a Board Resolution calling for the revival of the ROTC. They resolved "*that the present National Service Training Program (NSTP) that became the alternative program for the ROTC, are deemed insufficient to inculcate the values of discipline and patriotism required and do not address the military training ideally required of every citizen*".

This representation believes that it is now the opportune time to re-institutionalize the basic military and officer training for our tertiary students. By this legislation, we provide the appropriate training to ensure their readiness to respond to the call to service.

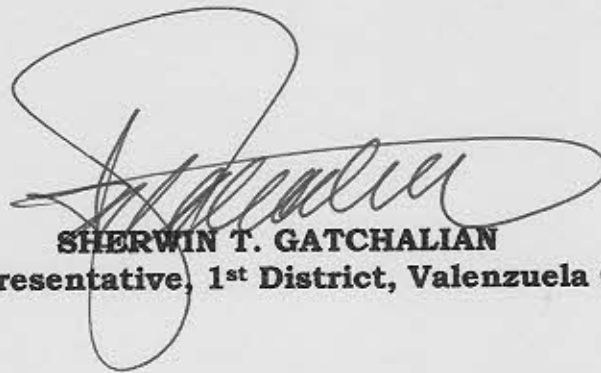
There is a lot to gain in optimizing the potentials of our youth to serve their country. We help them develop their national spirit, promote self-confidence and camaraderie, and, without having to spend for membership in a gym, make them physically strong and alert.

In its Declaration of Principles and State Policies, our Constitution has espoused that the *government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in the fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions required by law, to render personal military or civil service.* Under Commonwealth Act No. 1, the avowed policy was that the

preservation of the State is the obligation of every citizen. And in Republic Act No. 7077, everyone is called upon to maximize the opportunity in safeguarding the security of our State. Laws are replete with policies on service to countrymen, and these callings must now be instilled in our consciousness to be active in our civic duty, to prepare ourselves in case of a projected or actual need.

It is worthy of note that prior to its being an optional requirement of the NSTP, the ROTC constituted roughly about 75% of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) officer corps, and has since been the breeding ground for prominent graduates who became the country's AFP Chiefs-of-Staff. The ROTC program will bolster confidence in our military preparedness and capability while at the same time provides our country with the support of our student-cadet reservists and potential commissioned officers.

With this legislation, we call upon the Department of National Defense (DND) with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to craft a curriculum that will be most effective in implementing the revival of a mandatory tertiary ROTC with stringent measures to protect our students from abuse and harsh or excessive exercises. At the same time, secure that all concerns by various stakeholders in its administration are addressed in order to allay fears that has plagued the old system.



**SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN**  
**Representative, 1<sup>st</sup> District, Valenzuela City**

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**AN ACT TO RE-INSTITUTIONALIZE THE MANDATORY MILITARY  
AND CIVIC RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) FOR  
STUDENTS IN ALL COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL OR  
VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS**

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

**Section 1. Statement of Policy.** – a). It is the policy of the State to serve and protect the people. The government may call upon the people to defend the State and, in fulfillment thereof, all citizens may be required, under conditions provided by law, to render personal, military or civil service; b) The State recognizes the role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

**Section 2. Coverage.** – The conduct of *military training* under the ROTC shall apply to all male students enrolled in colleges, universities and technical or vocational schools. Female students shall undergo *civic training* under the ROTC on basic rescue operations and the delivery of health services. Students shall be required to complete the ROTC for an academic period of two (2) years.

**Section 3. Establishment of the ROTC.** – There is hereby established a mandatory military and civic training for all college students. The ROTC shall form part of the curriculum of all college degree courses as well as technical or vocational courses, and shall be a pre-requisite for graduation.

The Department of National Defense (DND) with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and other concerned government agencies shall formulate the ROTC course of instruction and adopt the rules and regulations to effectively carry out the objectives of this Act. The school authorities shall, with the DND, CHED and TESDA provide close coordination and administrative supervision to ensure the fitness and well-being of the students to undertake the training.

**Section 4. Funding.** - The funds for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the ROTC shall be provided for in the general appropriations act of the Department of National Defense.

**Section 5. Persons Disqualified or Exempted from this Act:**

1. Students who are physically or psychologically unfit, as certified by the DND medical officer and medical personnel of the academic institution where the concerned student is enrolled;
2. Students who have undergone or are undergoing similar military training;
3. Students who are active members of the AFP and the PNP;
4. Those who may be exempted from training for valid reasons which may be authorized jointly by the DND and the academic institution where the concerned student is enrolled.

**Section 6. Transitory Provision.** - This Act shall apply in the year following its approval. Any student enrolled and undertaking any component of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) shall be allowed to continue and complete the program.

**Section 7. Repealing Clause.** - All other laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**Section 8. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*