

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



**SENATE**

S. No. 59

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Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

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**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

This bill finds its roots in Presidential Decree No. 577<sup>1</sup>, Republic Act No. 6963<sup>2</sup>, Executive Order No. 69 s.2018<sup>3</sup>, Executive Order No. 110 s.2020<sup>4</sup> and other issuances that sought to provide benefits to members of uniformed services who are killed, injured or rendered physically disabled in the performance of their duties in legitimate government actions and operations.

Given the sad state of our military and police in terms of compensation and benefits vis-à-vis their sworn duty to protect and secure the State, and preserve and maintain peace and order, it is but imperative that a comprehensive and institutional assistance be accorded to them by the State.

The officers, men and women of the uniformed services deserve nothing less than a reasonable and tangible recognition of their dedication and commitment to the country, especially their families who, when they are killed, wounded, or rendered physically disabled in action or operation, are somewhat left hollow both emotionally, spiritually and financially. As such, drawing from the salient features of Executive

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<sup>1</sup> 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." November 11, 1974

<sup>2</sup> Republic Act No. 6963 "An Act Granting Special Financial Assistance and Benefits to The Family or Beneficiary of Any Police or Military Personnel or Fireman Killed or Permanently Incapacitated While in The Performance of His Duty or By Reason of His Office or Position and For Other Purposes." September 4, 1990

<sup>3</sup> Executive Order No. 69 "Granting Financial Support to the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit Active Auxiliary Service." December 4, 2018

<sup>4</sup> Executive Order No. 110 "Institutionalizing the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program." April 7, 2020

Order 110 s. 2020, this bill seeks to institutionalize the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CSBP) in a manner that would make the program more inclusive, its delivery more expedited, and its benefits more attuned to present needs.

To make the program more inclusive, this proposed measure expands the program coverage in two ways. First, the bill includes other uniformed personnel such as those from the Bureau of Corrections among the possible beneficiaries under the program. Second, the bill seeks to provide the same benefits under the program to uniformed personnel who suffered death, injury or physical disability prior to the effectivity of the proposed measure. These twin interventions ensure that uniformed personnel who are confronted by perils in their line of work are provided with social and financial safety nets especially when they are killed, injured or rendered physically disabled in the line of duty.

To make delivery more expedited, the bill creates a trust fund where the benefits to be provided under the CSBP can be drawn. Essentially, this bill earmarks 20 billion pesos in a trust fund to finance and make available various forms of assistance to qualified uniformed personnel and auxiliary service members and their beneficiaries, which includes: a) Special Financial Assistance; b) Educational Assistance; c) Shelter Assistance; d) Health and Medical Care Assistance; (e) Social Welfare and Cost of Living Assistance; and (f) Employment Assistance. This fund shall also be implemented and managed by a Comprehensive Benefit Program Fund Board comprised of government finance managers, social service providers, and the uniformed services concerned to ensure that the aforementioned assistance are provided to qualified beneficiaries in a timely manner.

Finally, the bill likewise seeks to expand the actual benefits provided under the CSBP. It seeks to extend the provision of educational assistance to cover ancillary educational expenses such as transportation, board and lodging, books and living expenses. It also enlarges the scope of shelter assistance to include not only construction but also rehabilitation, repair and improvement of existing housing units an intended beneficiary may already have. Finally, the bill increases the level of rice subsidy provided under social welfare and cost of living assistance to reflect average household rice consumption.

Sacrificing both life and limb in the name of one's motherland can never be understated and to honor one's heroism may be put into naught if it cannot be translated into reality.

Hence, this bill is filed for Congress' immediate consideration and approval.

Respectfully submitted.



**FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO** *ep*

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

12           *Sec. 3. Institutionalization of the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program.* – The  
13 Comprehensive Social Benefits Program (CBSP) is hereby institutionalized as a  
14 government mechanism to provide timely, appropriate and rationalized assistance and  
15 benefits to elements of uniformed services and qualified auxiliary services who become  
16 casualties in legitimate operations of their respective organizations, and their qualified  
17 dependents and beneficiaries. The CBSP shall provide for different types of benefits  
18 and assistance, including, but not limited to: special financial assistance; shelter  
19 assistance; health and medical care assistance; educational assistance; social welfare  
20 and cost of living assistance; and employment assistance.

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

8           Sec. 5. *Components of the CBSP.* – The benefits to be granted under the CBSP  
9 shall include the following:

- 10           (a) Special Financial Assistance – Provision of a lump sum fund for the death,  
11 injury or total permanent physical disability suffered by qualified uniformed  
12 personnel and auxiliary service members in the performance of their  
13 respective functions or as a result of legitimate action or operations of their  
14 respective uniformed services.
- 15           (b) Educational Assistance – Provision of educational assistance to dependents  
16 of uniformed personnel and auxiliary service member concerned under  
17 existing scholarship programs and study grants extended by the  
18 Department of National Defense (DND), National Police Commission  
19 (NAPOLCOM), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG),  
20 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and  
21 Skills Development Authority (TESDA) which covers tuition and other school  
22 fees, board and lodging expenses, transportation expenses, book  
23 allowance, and other similar or analogous expenses;
- 24           (c) Shelter Assistance – Provision of a housing unit located in uniformed  
25 personnel housing sites, or provision of financial assistance for the  
26 construction, repair, rehabilitation or improvement of new or existing  
27 housing unit on land owned by the beneficiaries concerned, in coordination  
28 with the National Housing Authority (NHA);
- 29           (d) Health and Medical Care Assistance – Membership into the Universal Health  
30 Care Program as indirect contributor, and provision of medicines and  
31 medical assistance for hospitalization under the Medical Assistance to  
32 Indigent Patients Program and other relevant programs of the Department  
33 of Health (DOH);
- 34           (e) Social Welfare and Cost of Living Assistance – Enrolment as members in the  
35 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program of the Department of Social Welfare  
36 and Development (DSWD) or, in lieu thereof, provision of a monthly subsidy  
37 of forty (40) kilos of rice or its cash equivalent based on the prevailing  
38 market price;
- 39           (f) Employment Assistance – Provision of such reasonable assistance for  
40 employment of qualified beneficiaries to be facilitated by the uniformed  
41 services concerned.

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

- 3           (a) The amounts and the applicability for each type of assistance shall be  
4 determined on the basis of the severity of the physical or bodily damage  
5 and injury sustained by an active officer or member of the AFP and the PNP  
6 in a legitimate action or operation;
- 7           (b) The grant of assistance provided under this Act shall be uniform and equal  
8 in each type and application, and shall ensure that the most reasonable  
9 and rightful amount for each type assistance is given;
- 10          (c) Uniformed personnel and auxiliary service members concerned, as well as  
11 their qualified beneficiaries, who received assistance provided under this  
12 Act may still avail of other forms of assistance provided by other  
13 government agencies, subject to the existing laws, rules, and regulations;
- 14          (d) The Education Assistance provided in Section 4(b) of this Act shall be made  
15 priority in terms of provision to qualified beneficiaries and share in the  
16 allocation in the Trust Fund created under Section 6 of this Act;
- 17          (e) The actual amount of assistance provided to uniformed personnel and  
18 auxiliary service members concerned and their qualified beneficiaries  
19 under this Act may be adjusted or modified by the President of the  
20 Philippines: *Provided*, That any change or adjustment in the amounts for  
21 each type of assistance shall reflect changes in pertinent social and  
22 economic indicators such as, but not limited to, the inflation rate and  
23 consumer price index as determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority  
24 (PSA) and other agencies concerned.

25           *Sec. 7. Creation of the Comprehensive Social Benefits Program Trust Fund. –*  
26 To ensure the immediate and adequate provision of assistance provided for in this  
27 Act, there is hereby constituted an irrevocable trust fund in the amount of Twenty  
28 Billion Pesos (Php20,000,000,000.00), to be known as the Comprehensive Social  
29 Benefits Program Trust Fund. The Fund shall be perpetually maintained and shall be  
30 used exclusively for the provisions of benefits identified under Section 4 of this Act:  
31 *Provided*, That assistance for uniformed personnel and qualified auxiliary service  
32 members who suffered death, injury or total permanent total disability prior to the  
33 effectivity of this Act shall be authorized to be sourced from the Fund: *Provided*,  
34 *further*, That such amount shall be disbursed to intended beneficiaries no later than  
35 two years following the effectivity of this Act: *Provided*, finally, That the releases from  
36 the Fund shall be approved by the Comprehensive Benefit Program Fund Board  
37 created under Section 7 of this Act and shall be released directly to the agencies  
38 concerned.

39           Section 8. *Administration of the Fund.* – There is hereby created a  
40 Comprehensive Benefit Program Fund Board, or the Board, to oversee the utilization  
41 Fund. The Board shall be composed of sixteen (16) members as follows:

- 42           a) President of the Philippines as Chairperson;  
43           b) Secretary of the DND;  
44           c) Secretary of the DILG;

- 1 d) Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM)
- 2 e) Secretary of the DSWD;
- 3 f) Secretary of DOH;
- 4 g) Secretary of the Department of Finance (DOF);
- 5 h) Chairperson of the CHED;
- 6 i) Director-General of the TESDA;
- 7 j) General Manager of the NHA;
- 8 k) Chief of Staff of the AFP;
- 9 l) Chief of the PNP;
- 10 m) Chief of the BJMP;
- 11 n) Chief of the BFP;
- 12 o) Commandant of the PCG; and
- 13 p) Director-General of the BUCOR.

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

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

21 Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from  
22 the effectivity of this Act, the Board shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules  
23 and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

24 Section 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held  
25 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid  
26 and subsisting.

27 Section 11. *Repealing Clause.* –All laws, decrees, orders, regulations, policies  
28 or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act  
29 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

30 Section 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
31 publication the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

32 *Approved,*