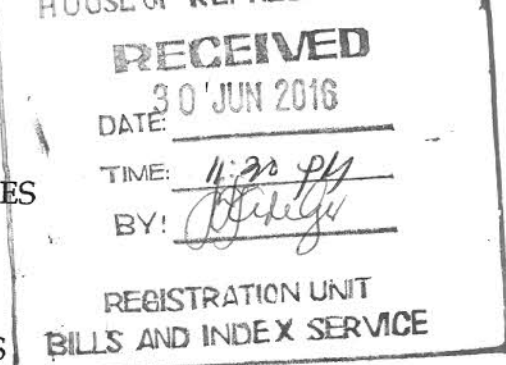


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 713



Introduced by Congresswoman BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In moving toward the 21st century, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has begun the long overdue process of modernization. The program of modernization seeks to upgrade facilities, and acquire equipment to ensure that the Armed Forces can live up to its constitutional mandate of preserving our national sovereignty.

However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that a state has an obligation to safeguard our sovereignty by modernizing the military; it also has the primary duty to ensure the prosperity of the nation and provide adequate social services and an improved quality of life for its citizens.

Modernization of our Armed Forces should be accompanied by better and improved benefits for the people, which comprise it - Military personnel and their dependents. The State therefore has the obligation of ensuring that the welfare of military personnel and their dependents is promoted and improved.

This piece of legislation lays down the necessary framework of institutionalizing benefits for military dependents and emphasizes on increasing benefits of the dependents for Health, Housing Education, and other benefits.

Thus, expeditious passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

[Signature]
BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO
Representative
Lone District, Aurora Province

Introduced by Congresswoman BELLAFLOR J. ANGARA-CASTILLO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS, CREATING THE
MILITARY DEPENDENTS WELFARE OFFICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. This Act shall be known as the *“Military Dependent’s Benefits Act of 2013.”*

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the state to ensure the prosperity and well-being of its citizens through policies and programs that provide adequate social services, promote rising standards of living and an improved quality of life for all.

Moreover, the state recognizes the vital role of the military in the protection of our country’s sovereignty and should therefore ensure the promotion and improvement of the social and economic status of military personnel and their dependents.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act the following shall mean:

- a) **“Military Dependent”** - refers to the wife, children and other persons dependent on the military personnel for chief support, duly registered with the Moral and Welfare Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel J1 of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.
- b) **“AFP Military Personnel”** - shall include all active and incapacitated members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

SEC. 4. Educational Benefits. Dependents of military personnel not exceeding four (4) shall be entitled to educational assistance in any of the following educational levels with the indicated amount of support per school year and corresponding durations as follows:

Educational level	Amount of Support (Per year)	Duration
College	P 6,000.00	4/5 years
Vocational	P 4,000.00	2 years
Secondary	P 3,000.00	4 years
Elementary	P 2,000.00	6 years

SEC. 5. Health Benefits. Dependents of Military personnel shall be entitled to the following health benefits to be provided by AFP Health Facilities located in various parts of the country:

- a) Free Hospitalization, inclusive of Professional Services, Medicines, and Medical Supplies
- b) Dispensary or Outpatient Services
- c) Ambulance Services
- d) Free Dental Services

SEC. 6. Housing Benefits. All military personnel and their dependents shall be provided with the necessary housing subject to the eligibility and priority system set by the Major Service/Unit Housing Boards of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Housing, especially Off-Base housing in preparation for retirement will be provided additional funding.

SEC. 7. Commissary Benefits. All military dependents shall be entitled to the benefit/privilege of purchasing tax-exempt merchandise from any of the AFPCES units either cash or salary check.

SEC. 8. Other Benefits and Privileges. Military dependents shall continue to receive all other existing benefits and privileges.

SEC. 9. Creation of the Military Dependents Welfare Office. There is hereby created a Military Dependents Welfare Office, herein after referred to as the Office, which shall be attached to the Morale and Welfare Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, J-1 Armed Forces of the Philippines, for the coordination and recommendation of policies and programs for military dependents.

SEC. 10. Functions of the Office. The Office shall have the powers and functions:

- a) To act as coordinating body for all issues and concerns of military dependents.
- b) To formulate and institutionalize the necessary system and mechanism to ensure the effective and responsive delivery of benefits for military dependents.

- c) To facilitate and ensure the swift release of benefits to the Military Dependents.
- d) To review existing benefits and recommend the necessary improvements to ensure better benefits for Military Dependents.
- e) To annually recommend to the Department of National Defense appropriations for military dependent's benefits under the budget of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

SEC. 11. *Coordination with Armed Forces of the Philippines Savings and Loans, Associations Incorporated (AFPSLAI) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Retirement Separation Benefit System (AFPRSBS).* The Military Dependents' benefits office shall coordinate with the AFPSLAI and AFPRSBS to facilitate and ensure the release of benefits for military dependents.

SEC. 12. *Appropriations.* The Department of National Defense shall, every year allocate a portion of their annual budget for the support of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Rules and Regulations.* The Department of National Defense shall promulgate the Rules and Regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.* All Republic Acts, Executive Orders, Presidential Decrees, laws, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 15. *Separability Clause.* If, for any reason, any section or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining sections or parts not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,