

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 9898



---

**Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP**

---

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is responsible for upholding the sovereignty of the country, supporting its Constitution, and defending its territory against all enemies. On the other hand, the Philippine National Police (PNP) is responsible for enforcing the law, preventing and controlling crimes, maintaining peace and order, and ensuring public safety and international security with the active support of the community.

It is but necessary that Enlisted Personnel of both the AFP and the PNP be entitled to free legal assistance for charges that are in line with their official duties. Enlisted Personnel are those who put their lives at risk everyday in ensuring that there is peace and order in the country. Most of the time, they are wrongfully charged and accused, especially when their job involves having to prove or expose high profile syndicates and the like.

Free legal assistance will strengthen our uniformed personnel's morale, safeguarding them from unfortunate circumstances that may come with performing their sworn duties. This free legal assistance, in the premise that it is not misused, could serve as an incentive and boost productivity.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
ERIC GO YAP

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
3<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. 9898

---

**Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP**

---

**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY OFFICER OR ENLISTED**  
**PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE**  
**PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ON ANY CHARGE BEFORE THE**  
**PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, COURT OR ANY COMPETENT BODY ARISING**  
**FROM AN INCIDENT RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL**  
**DUTY**

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

**SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “Free Legal Assistance Act for Enlisted Personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police.”

**SEC. 2.** Any personnel or enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), who is facing before the prosecutor’s office, court, administrative or any competent body, any charge arising from an incident or incidents in relation to the performance of their official duty shall be entitled to free legal assistance.

**SEC. 3.** Within twenty four (24) hours from the official receipt of the information that the officer or enlisted personnel is charged, the Chief of Staff of the AFP, the Chairperson of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) or the Chief of the PNP shall authorize the legal office of their respective agencies, with the assistance of the Public Attorney’s Office, to provide free legal assistance to any officer or enlisted personnel of the AFP and the PNP for the purpose of the immediately preceding section.

**SEC. 4.** The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the Legal Defense Fund funded through the General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Public Attorney's Office, in coordination with the AFP, NAPOLCOM, and the PNP, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SEC. 6.** *Effectivity* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,