

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9902



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

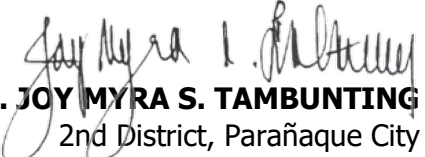
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our peacekeepers, the members of our Armed Forces and Philippine National Police, play a critical role in the maintenance of national security, peace and order, and public safety in the country. They encounter various risks in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, and oftentimes their lives are placed in jeopardy. They are seen as dispensers of justice who place their lives on the line on a daily basis so that we may enjoy the peace and freedom envisioned under the Constitution

It is, however, often overlooked how these people tasked to defend our safety, security, and freedom, are also in need of defenders for the protection of their own rights. Thus, like any other sector of the society, our military and police, should not be denied access to legal assistance which they may need as a consequence of the faithful performance of their official duties.

Where costs of litigation could, at times, prove to be too burdensome, for the meager livelihood earned by our soldiers and police officers, the State must do its part to ensure that those tasked with the duty to serve and protect, are adequately served and protected.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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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 OR INCIDENTS 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. Any officer 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 related to the performance of official duty shall be entitled to free legal assistance.

Sec. 2. 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 Attorneys 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. 3. Appropriations. – 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. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Public Attorneys Office, in coordination with the AFP, NAPOLCOM and the PNP, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

Sec. 5. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,