



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 9969



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE **DIVINA GRACE C. YU**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide free legal assistance to any officer or enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) 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.

The members of AFP and PNP perform their sacred duty in the preservation of our national security, peace and order and public safety in the country. But while in the performance of their duties, they are at risk of being accused of harassments, human rights violations, and other baseless accusations. Unfortunately, some of them cannot afford to engage the services of a lawyer due to prohibitive cost of legal services.

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

REP. DIVINA GRACE C. YU
1st District, Zamboanga Del Sur



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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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.

Section 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.