

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2499



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE ARNULF BRYAN "ARNIE" B. FUENTEBELLA

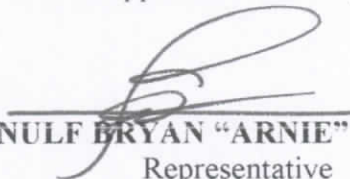
EXPLANATORY NOTE

One of the priority measures cited by His Excellency President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, in his State of the Nation Address (SONA) is to give free legal assistance to 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, on any charge arising from an incident or incidents related to the performance of their official duty.

It is therefore the paramount objective of this bill to pursue the legislative agenda of President Duterte by seeking 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) who is facing charges before any court or other administrative bodies in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Under the proposed measure, the Secretary of Justice, the Chief of Staff of the AFP, the Chairperson of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) or the Chief of the PNP shall authorize any lawyer or lawyers of their respective agencies to provide free legal assistance to any officer or enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police (PNP) for the purpose.

The foregoing reasons warrant the approval of this important piece of legislation.


ARNULF BRYAN "ARNIE" B. FUENTEBELLA
Representative
Fourth District, Camarines Sur

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 2499

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE ARNULF BRYAN "ARNIE" B. FUENTEBELLA

AN ACT

PROVIDING 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 OR CASE FILED BEFORE THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, COURT, ADMINISTRATIVE OR ANY COMPETENT BODY ARISING FROM AN INCIDENT OR INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 or case filed arising from an incident or incidents related to the performance of official duty shall be entitled to free legal assistance from the government.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of Justice, the Chief of Staff of the AFP, the Chairperson of the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) or the Chief of the PNP shall authorize any lawyer or lawyers of their respective agencies to provide free legal assistance to any officer or enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police (PNP) for the purpose under the immediately preceding section.

SEC. 3. Any amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the appropriation of the DOJ, AFP, NAPOLCOM and PNP of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOJ, in coordination with the AFP, NAPOLCOM and the PNP, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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

Approved