

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

533

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by Rep. JOSEPH STEPHEN S. PADUANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Drug abuse and addiction has become a social menace in the country that affects all sectors of the Philippine society. While addiction to some substances is not necessarily criminal in nature, such as alcohol and prescription drugs, they still have the same detrimental effects with illegal substances if abused.

Drug dependency is considered as a disease which needs professional intervention through rehabilitation. However, rehabilitation of illegal drug dependents is expensive and in the Philippines, a lot of people suffering from drug or alcohol addictions prefer not to have themselves rehabilitated mostly for two reasons: the fear of being discriminated by others for having an addiction, and the concern to the costs and fees with doubts of whether or not the rehabilitation will succeed in taking away that person's addictions.

Rehabilitation in privately-owned facilities usually costs PhP10,000.00 - PhP100,000.00 per month, depending on the facility and the type of rehabilitation that a patient may require. On the other hand, the cost of rehabilitation in government operated centers ranges from PhP5,000.00 PhP10,000.00 a month. The monthly fees cover the patient's stay, the rehabilitation programs and most often, the day-to-day needs of the person. In government operated rehab centers, daily necessities such as food and water are taken care of by government funding, while in privately-owned rehab centers, they usually charge additional monthly personal allowance fees.

The Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) listed forty-two (42) Drug Rehabilitation Residential Centers and three (3) Out-Patient Centers accredited by the Department of Health (DOH) nationwide as of 31 December 2012. Thirty six (36) of the Residential Centers are located in Luzon and Visayas while six (6) are located in three (3) regions of Mindanao. Eleven (11) of these Residential Centers are operated by government organizations, four (4) by local government units and twenty-seven (27) by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). On the other hand, two (2) of the Out-Patient Centers are operated by government organizations in Region XI and ARMM while the other one is operated by an NGO in the National Capital Region.

Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them." Further, Sec. 11, Art. XIII states that: "The State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be priority for the needs of the under-privileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers."

In consonance with the above-cited constitutional mandates, this bill aims to establish a more accessible and affordable Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drugs Users who voluntarily submit themselves for treatment in every province of the country. It provides for the collaboration between the provincial government and the concerned government agencies for its establishment. The bill also seeks to make available a comprehensive social reintegration program and follow-up for illegal drug dependents to prepare them for re-integration in the community after the treatment.

In support of the Duterte administration's intensified campaign against criminality and illegal drugs use, the expeditious passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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House Bill No. _____

Introduced by **REP. JOSEPH STEPHEN S. PADUANO**

AN ACT

MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REHABILITATION CENTER FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS USERS IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. There shall be established, through the Department of Health (DOH), jointly with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the concerned provincial government, a Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drugs Users in every province in the country.

Section 2. The Provincial Governor, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, shall determine the location of each Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drugs Users, taking into consideration its accessibility of to the residents of remote areas.

Section 3. The DOH, in coordination with the provincial government, shall exercise supervision and control over each Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drugs Users, in addition to the duties and responsibilities of the Department under Section 76 of Republic Act No. (RA) 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Section 4. The program for the voluntary or compulsory submission of a drug dependent and other legal processes related thereby shall be in compliance to the provisions in Article VIII of RA 9165.

Section 5. The Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drugs Users shall provide affordable and accessible treatment and care to persons who committed abuse of illegal drugs and voluntarily submit for rehabilitation. It shall further make available a comprehensive social reintegration program and follow-up for illegal drug dependents to prepare them for re-integration in the community after the treatment.

Section 6. *Funding* - the funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the concerned government agencies as part of their annual budget.

Section 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*- The DOH, in consultation with the DSWD and the DILG, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 8. *Separability Clause*- If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

Section 9. *Repealing Clause*- All laws, parts of laws, decrees, presidential 5
issuances, proclamations, orders, ordinances, and administrative regulations in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause*- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever, comes earlier.

Approved.