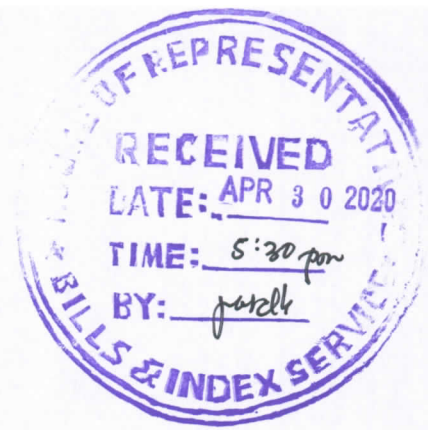


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6637



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party-List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The period of transition from custody to community can be particularly difficult for former prisoners. Incarceration itself may have had several "collateral effects" upon many offenders. They may have lost their livelihood, personal belongings, and ability to maintain housing for themselves. More importantly, they may have lost their family and important personal relationships, and damaged their social networks. Further, they may have experienced mental health difficulties or acquired self-defeating habits and attitudes.

The failed re-entry of prisoners involves some significant costs for the society, both in terms of financial assets and public safety. This is where social reintegration comes in. Social reintegration is often understood as the support given to offenders during their re-entry into society following imprisonment. The programs to support the reintegration of offenders must be pursued to avoid significant future social and financial costs. This is also to ensure that former prisoners are given the chance to change their lives and become responsible members of the society.

This bill seeks to create a Committee on Employment Opportunities for Former Prisoners under the Department of Justice, which shall be responsible for the facilitation of training and employment of former inmates. Moreover, this measure aims to provide incentives to private establishments and institutions that hire former inmates. These are some ways to create the favorable environment for the reintegration of former prisoners.

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

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
INSTITUTING THE FORMER PRISONERS' EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** — This Act shall be known as the "*Former Prisoners*
2 *Employment Act*".

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** — It is the policy of the State to aid former prisoners to
5 continue their reformation and help them reintegrate into society after they have been released from
6 prison.

7
8 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** — For the purposes of this Act:

9
10 (a) ***Business establishments*** refer to private companies that employ former prisoners.

11
12 (b) ***Committee*** refers to the Committee on Employment Opportunities for Former Prisoners,
13 under the Department of Justice.

14
15 (c) ***Former prisoners*** refer to those convicted by final judgment and who have been
16 released on probation, parole, pardon, or after having served their sentences.

17
18 **SEC. 4. *Creation of the Committee.*** — The Committee on Employment Opportunities for
19 Former Prisoners under the Department of Justice, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, is
20 hereby created with the task of drafting provisions for the training and employment of former
21 prisoners.

22
23 **SEC. 5. *Structural and Personnel Organization.*** — The Committee shall be headed by a
24 Chairman and assisted by a Vice Chairman, who shall both be appointed by the President, upon the
25 recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Justice.

1 Appointees to the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman must be holders of a
2 doctorate/master's degree in business or public administration and/or lawyers with at least one year
3 experience in penology management.
4

5 The Committee shall have a Technical Service Arm to assist it to carry out its duties and
6 functions.
7

8 **SEC. 6. Tax Credit.** — Business establishments that will employ former prisoners upon the
9 effectivity of this Act shall be entitled to an additional deduction from their gross income,
10 equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount paid as salaries and wages to former
11 prisoners, subject to Section 4 of the National Internal Revenue Code.
12

13 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — The Secretary of Department of Justice
14 and the Secretary of Department of Labor and Employment shall, within thirty (30) days from the
15 effectivity of this Act, issue such rules and regulations necessary for the proper implementation of
16 the provisions of this law.
17

18 **SEC. 8. Appropriations.** — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall
19 be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and
20 thereafter. An initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) shall be allocated
21 for the first year of its implementation.
22

23 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, executive orders, executive issuances, or letters of
24 instructions, or any part thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act, are
25 hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.
26

27 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** — If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall
28 be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts thereof not affected shall remain valid.
29

30 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at
31 least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,