Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO.

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BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by: Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tar, M.D.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DRUG REHABILITATION CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND PROVINCE THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 2, Section 15 of the Constitution, provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Consistent with the aforesaid provision of the fundamental law, this measure seeks to establish a drug rehabilitation center in every city and province throughout the country.

The problem of illegal drugs poses a grave threat to our country's national security where it has penetrated in almost all sectors and levels of society including the government, business, and even law enforcement agencies, and it may only take a little more time before

Although some government agencies envisioned to lead the government's total war against dangerous drugs had been created, it is important to remember that a drug dependent is not a criminal, but a victim who is in need of medical and psychiatric treatment and can still become a valuable member of society.

Hence, it is imperative that the government should direct its national programs to promote and sustain the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse, especially in the critical after-care and social reintegration stages. Bringing a person back to the state of being where he can successfully cope with the physical, psychological, and social demands of family and community life is one way of helping a sick person become a productive part of the community.

By establishing an accessible drug rehabilitation center in every city and province of the country, we can ensure the speedy recovery from the physical and mental trauma brought about by dangerous drugs to every drug dependent in the country.

It is unfortunate that most drug dependents are left without proper medical assistance on how to deal with their addiction due to lack of affordability and accessibility of drug abuse rehabilitation centers.

This bill seeks to enhance public safety and promote the health and welfare of indigent drug dependents whose families cannot afford to send them to a private rehabilitation center, by creating drug rehabilitation centers in every city and province that will provide affordable and accessible rehabilitation services.

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

ANGELINA "HELEN" D.L. TAN, M.D.

4th District, Quezon

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

- SECTION 1. Creation of Drug Rehabilitation Centers. The Department of Health (DOH) shall undertake the establishment of a drug rehabilitation center in every city and province in the country.
- SEC. 2. *Objectives and Functions.* Drug rehabilitation centers shall have the following objectives and functions:
- (a) To provide care, treatment and accommodation to persons found to be drug dependents;
- (b) To bring a drug dependent to a state where he is physically, psychologically and socially capable with problems common to his peer group;
- (c) To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, care, treatment and control of drug addiction;
- (d) To provide after-care, follow-up and social reintegration services to enable a drug dependent to adjust to family and community life after his release;
- (e) To provide each drug dependent motivation to regain self-confldence, rediscover his working abilities and develop a sense of responsibility for himself;
- (f) To encourage the formation of organizations and associations composed of parents, guardians and immediate relatives of drug dependents in order to arouse their awareness and enhance their participation in the treatment and rehabilitation of their relatives or wards found to be drug dependent patients;
- (g) To undertake continuous training of physicians, nurses, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific methods of prevention, care, treatment and the rehabilitation of persons found to be drug dependents; and
- (h) To strengthen the emotional and spiritual make-up of an individual drug dependent by conducting regular guidance and counseling sessions as well as interdenominational services.
- SEC. 3. Site of Drug Rehabilitation Centers. The DOH shall determine the location of a drug rehabilitation center, in coordination with local government units, taking into consideration its accessibility to its clientele.
- SEC. 4. Lead Agency. The Secretary of Health shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the Act.

- SEC. 5. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
- SEC. 6. Separability Clause. If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.
- SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.
- SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,