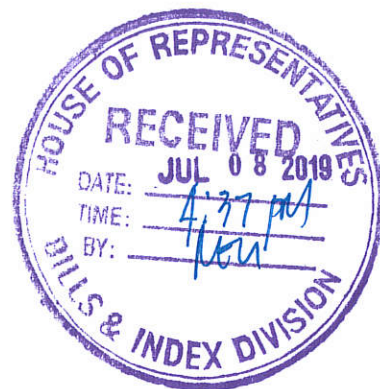


Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1614**



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Introduced by Honorable Neptali M. Gonzales II

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill provides for the granting of good conduct time allowance to prisoners who will participate in literacy skills and development programs while inside the penal institutions amending for the purpose Article 97, Chapter II of the Revised Penal Code.

It is of common knowledge that many prisoners are unschooled or are illiterate. Ignorance is the reason why they usually transgress the law and land in jail.

This bill will give inmates the opportunity to be educated, develop skills and strengthen their moral values while under detention. Most of all, it will reduce their sentence and thus shorten their stay in prison.

Hence, the approval of this bill is highly recommended.

  
NEPTALI M. GONZALES II

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AN ACT  
GRANTING GOOD CONDUCT TIME ALLOWANCE TO PRISONERS WHO  
PARTICIPATE IN LITERACY, SKILLS AND VALUES DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMS IN PENAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
ARTICLE 97 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
REVISED PENAL CODE

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

**SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is the policy of the State to promote the correction and rehabilitation of prisoners by providing opportunities for increasing their literacy skills and strengthening their moral values thereby facilitating their reintegration into the mainstream of society as reformed and productive citizens. Towards this end, the State shall recognize efforts of prisoners for self-improvement by granting them good conduct time allowance as envisioned under Article 97, Chapter II of the Revised Penal Code.

**SEC. 2. *Coverage*** - This Act shall cover detention prisoners in detention facilities of law enforcement agencies and those prisoners serving sentence by virtue of final judgment in the Bureau of Corrections and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

**SEC. 3. *Good Conduct Time Allowance*** – Any prisoner who has earned or is making satisfactory progress towards earning a post-graduate or college degree, high school or elementary grade diploma, vocational or technical skill or values development certificate or those who are being utilized to teach subjects or courses in the aforementioned programs shall

be granted time credit towards the service of sentence: *Provided*, That the time credit shall not exceed fifteen (15) days for every month of study time.

**SEC. 4. *Program Implementation.*** – The academic, vocational skills and values development programs for prisoners shall be implemented in coordination with the Department of Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and other recognized institutions and organization.

**SEC. 5. *Authority to Grant Good Conduct Time Allowance.*** – The Director of the Bureau of Corrections, the Chief of the BJMP, wardens of provincial and sub-provincial jails and the Director of the National Bureau of Investigation shall have the authority to assess, evaluate and grant good time allowances to prisoners, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Justice, Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) or the Provincial Governor, as the case may be.

**SEC. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of Justice and the Secretary of the DILG shall, within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for its effective implementation.

**SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – In case any provision hereof is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared and affected shall remain in force and effect.

**SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

**SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation

**Approved,**