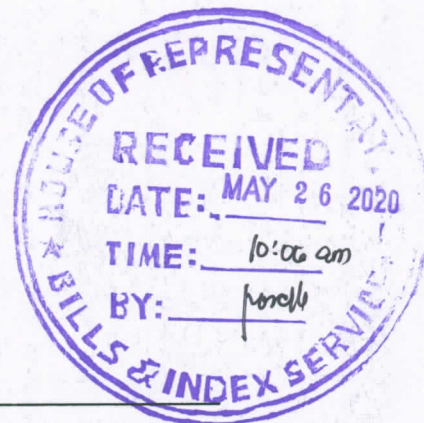


HOUSE BILL NO. 6806



Introduced by Representative ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA

**AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2018, Republic Act No. 11036 or the Mental Health Act was enacted in response to the studies made by the World Health Organization (WHO) which revealed that the Philippines has the highest incidence of depression among Southeast Asian countries. The Department of Health had also similar findings based on surveys which show that almost one in every one hundred (100) households has a member with a mental disorder.

Access to mental health services and interventions from regional, provincial and tertiary hospitals and even at the barangay level was strengthened through the passage of this law. The rights of patients with mental disorder was likewise recognized and given due respect. However, it is our belief that along with the recognition of the well-being of our mentally challenged *kababayans*, we also need to address and assist the mental health needs of the Filipino workforce, both in public and private sectors. Through this measure, we will be able to lessen the incidence of another health problem.

It is undeniable that employees go through a lot deal of stress from work on an everyday basis. In a typical day, an ordinary Filipino employee goes through the stress of daily long commutes, to and from work, the lack of work/life balance, and/or less than competitive salary, among others. This unhealthy environment exposes these employees to the risks of several health problems which affect all aspects of their life, including their emotions, behaviors, thinking ability, and physical health.

While RA 11036 has placed measures to make it easier for workers to seek help, it is our belief that it still lacks assistance in terms of relieving the financial burden of availing these services. Seeking for professional help entails big costs and it is unfortunate that the PhilHealth has yet to increase the benefit package of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Pesos (P7,800.00) for mental and behavioral disorders.

Based on the foregoing, we seek for the passage of a law which would amend the Mental Health Act in order to reinforce already existing laws - such as Presidential Decree No. 626¹ (for private and public employees) and Republic Act No. 6963² (for our uniformed personnel) – which provide for compensation benefits and/or special financial assistance in the event a worker sustains a disability while in the performance of duty or by reason of his/her position. It is our firm belief that getting professional medical help is the best way to solve the emerging problem of mental health among the Filipino employees. It is, thus, rightful that we pass a law which reinforces their rights to a secure monetary compensation and assistance to lessen, if not eliminate, the burden and harmful effects this serious health hazard.

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



ROMMEL RICO T. ANGARA
Lone District, Aurora

¹ Further Amending Certain Articles of Presidential Decree No. 442 Entitled "Labor Code of the Philippines".

² An Act Granting Special Financial Assistance and Benefits to the Family or Beneficiary of Any Police or Military Personnel or Fireman Killed or Permanently Incapacitated while in the Performance of His Duty or by Reason of His Office or Position and For Other Purposes.

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AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT

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

SECTION 1. Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11036 otherwise known as the "Mental Health Act" is hereby amended to read as flows:

"Sec. 5. Rights of Service Users – Service users shall enjoy, on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis, all rights guaranteed by the Constitution as well as those recognized under the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and all other relevant international and regional human rights conventions and declarations, including the right to:

XXX

XXX

XXX

"(U) IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE COMPENSATION BENEFITS AND/OR ANY SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THAT THE SERVICE USER IS ENTITLED TO UNDER EXISTING LAWS SHOULD THE SERVICE USER SUSTAIN TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT MENTAL DISABILITY WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY OR BY REASON OF HIS OR HER OFFICE OR POSITION."

SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of the general circulation.

Approved,