



13 SEP -5 25:42

SENATE
S. No. 1575

RECORDED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Substance abuse is the process of using legal or illegal drugs or other chemicals that have an impact on a person in a detrimental way. It is the misuse of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, prescription drugs, and other substances (such as paint thinners or aerosol gasses) that change how the mind and body work. The term can be used to apply to both criminal and non-criminal acts, as substance abuse can refer to overindulgence of legal drugs as well. Someone may abuse alcohol in a way that never specifically causes him or her to break the law, but it may still have serious negative consequences and impacts both on the abuser's life and the lives of those around him or her. Substance abuse can also involve the use of illegal drugs and can often involve one or more instances of legal repercussions such as police arrest and incarceration.¹

Drug addiction appears to be on the rise in the Philippines. There are believed to be as many as 6.7 million drug abusers according to figures from 2004. This is a dramatic increase from 1972, when there was only believed to have been around 20,000 drug users in the Philippines. The drug that is most abused in the Philippines continues to be alcohol. Filipinos are the second highest consumers of alcoholic drinks in South East Asia. Most of the drug users in the Philippines are young people. While there are no hard and fast statistics available, it is

¹ <http://www.wisegeek.com>

estimated that as many as 60,000 young people in the Philippines are dealing with drug addiction.²

Unfortunately, most substance abusers are left without proper medical assistance on how to deal with their addiction due to lack of affordability and accessibility of substance abuse rehabilitation centers.

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

acc. *Miriam Defensor Santiago*
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

² <http://alcoholrehab.com>

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 SEP -5 P5:42

SENATE
S. No. 1575

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT.
2 PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE REHABILITATION
3 CENTERS IN EVERY CITY AND PROVINCE THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Accessible Substance Abuse
5 Treatment Act."

6 SECTION 2. *Creation of Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Center.* - The Department of
7 Health (DOH), in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG),
8 shall undertake the establishment of a substance abuse rehabilitation center in every city and
9 province in the country.

10 SECTION 3. *Lead Agency.* - The Secretary of Health, in coordination with the Secretary
11 of Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
12 effective implementation of the Act.

13 SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* - There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may
14 be necessary to carry out this Act.

15 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
17 valid and subsisting.

1 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
2 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
3 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

4 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,