




SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION )

'17 MAR 16 P3:00

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SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1400

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY  
PROGRAM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15, Article 2 of the 1987 Constitution provides that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

The administration's strong position against illegal and dangerous drugs have created a mind shift among the Filipinos with regard its evil effects not just to the person but more so to their families and the society as a whole.

The anti-drug campaign should be coupled with plausible programs which will not only complement the operations but will also cover a holistic approach of prevention, education and recovery of abusers.

The bill seeks to provide for a comprehensive approach not just in the recovery but in the prevention and education as well. It will also involve the commitment and participation of stakeholders - a community -wide approach to combat drug abuse and prevent its proliferation through effective education.

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



JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY PROGRAM**

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

1 **SECTION I. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Comprehensive*  
2 *Addiction Recovery Act.*"  
3

4 **SECTION 2. Inter-Agency Task Force.** - Not later than 120 days after the date  
5 of enactment of this Act, the Department of Health, in cooperation with the  
6 Dangerous Drugs Board, and the Philippine Drug Enforcement  
7 Administration, shall convene a Pain Management Best Practices Inter-  
8 Agency Task Force (referred to in this section as the task force).  
9

10 (a) Membership. - The task force shall be comprised of:  
11

- 12 1. the Department of Health;
- 13 2. Dangerous Drugs Board;
- 14 3. the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency;
- 15 4. the National Institutes of Health; and
- 16 5. physicians, dentists, and non-physician prescribers;
- 17 6. pharmacists;
- 18 7. experts in the fields of pain research and addiction research;
- 19 8. pain management professional organizations;
- 20 9. the mental health treatment community;
- 21 10. the addiction treatment community; and
- 22 11. pain advocacy groups; and



1 12. other stakeholders, as the Secretary of Health determines  
2 appropriate.

3  
4 (b) Duties. - The task force shall:

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6 1. Not later than 180 days after the date on which the task force is  
7 convened, develop best practices for pain management and  
8 prescribing pain medication, taking into consideration-

- 9  
10 i. existing pain management research;  
11 ii. recommendations from relevant conferences; and  
12 iii. ongoing efforts at the State and local levels and by medical  
13 professional organizations to develop improved pain  
14 management strategies;

15  
16 2. solicit and take into consideration public comment on the  
17 practices developed under paragraph (a), amending such best  
18 practices if appropriate; and

19  
20 3. develop a strategy for disseminating information about the best  
21 practices developed under Section 2, subparagraph (b) to  
22 prescribers, pharmacists, State medical boards, and other parties, as  
23 the Secretary of Health determines appropriate.

24  
25 (c) Report. - Not later than 270 days after the date on which the task  
26 force is convened, the task force shall submit to Congress a report that  
27 includes-

- 28  
29 i. the strategy for disseminating best practices developed under  
30 Section 2(b);  
31  
32 ii. recommendations on how to apply best practices developed  
33 under Section 2(b) to improve prescribing practices at medical  
34 facilities.

35  
36 **SECTION 3. National Education Campaign.** - Together with local  
37 government units, the Department of Health, the Philippine Drug  
38 Enforcement Agency, and the Department of Education shall expand  
39 educational efforts to prevent abuse of opioids, heroin, and 6 other substances  
40 of abuse, understand addiction as a chronic disease, and promote treatment  
41 and recovery, including:

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43 (a) Parent and caretaker-focused prevention efforts, including -

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1. the development of research-based community education online and social media materials with an accompanying toolkit that can be disseminated to communities to educate parents and other caretakers of teens on-
    - i. how to educate teens about opioid and heroin abuse;
    - ii. how to intervene if a parent thinks or knows their teen is abusing opioids or heroin;
    - iii. signs of opioid or heroin overdose; and
    - iv. the use of naloxone to prevent death from opioid or heroin overdose;
  - (b) The development of detailed digital and print educational materials to accompany the online and social media materials and toolkit described in Section 3(a);
  - (c) The development and dissemination of public service announcements to-
    - i. raise awareness of heroin and opioid abuse among parents and other caretakers; and
    - ii. motivate parents and other caretakers to visit online educational materials on heroin and opioid abuse; and
  - (d) The dissemination of educational materials to the media through-
    - i. an inter-local government units or panel discussion with experts;
    - ii. media tour, and sharable infographics;
  - (e) Prevention efforts focused on teenagers, college students, and college-age individuals, including-
    - i. the development of a national digital campaign; and
    - ii. the development of a community education toolkit for use by community coalitions;
    - iii. campaigns to inform individuals about available resources to aid in recovery from substance use disorder;
    - iv. encouragement of individuals in or seeking recovery from substance use disorder to enter the health care system; or



- 1 v. adult-focused awareness efforts, including efforts focused on  
2 older adults, relating to prescription medication disposal,  
3 opioid and heroin abuse, signs of overdose, and the use of  
4 naloxone for reversal.  
5

6 **SECTION 4. Programs Addressing Local Drug Crisis.** - The Department of  
7 Health, the Dangerous Drugs Board, the Philippine Drug Enforcement  
8 Agency, the Department of Education, and the local government unit shall  
9 design and implement a comprehensive community-wide prevention strategy  
10 to address local drug crisis in the area.  
11

12 **SECTION 5. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof, is held  
13 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not  
14 otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.  
15

16 **SECTION 6. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
17 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation  
18 contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,  
19 modified, or amended accordingly.  
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21 **SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
22 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
23  
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25 *Approved,*  
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