



'19 JUL 11 P 4:10

SENATE

S. B. No. 399

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INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF A DRUG ABUSE
TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY PROVINCE
THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Much has been said about the drug menace and its capacity to destroy and wreak havoc on the lives of its victims. Measures are being taken to address the importance of fighting the proliferation of drug-related crimes. Many such measures are directed towards subduing the criminals responsible for these crimes. However, the elimination of drug-related crimes is merely one aspect of the two-pronged approach that must be taken in dealing with the effects of dangerous drugs. Apart from the fight for the nation's safety and security against the menace of illegal drugs, attention must also be directed towards the rehabilitation and recovery of its victims.

Drug dependents are victims of drug criminals and syndicates. They are people who have been preyed upon by opportunists seeking to take advantage of the downward spiral that inevitably takes place once drug addiction begins. Thus, drug dependents should be treated as victims in dire need of medical, psychological, and spiritual help, with a chance of being successfully reintegrated into society as a healthy and productive citizen.

While it is true that the current administration has centered its campaign against drugs on crime prevention and eradication, it has not lost sight of its duty to aid in the recovery of those whose lives have been destroyed by illegal drugs. Despite the undoubtedly tough stance of our President Rodrigo Roa Duterte against drug-related crimes, he has shown equal concern for the rehabilitation and reintegration of drug dependents by directing the executive branch of the government to support the establishment of Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers. In these places, drug dependents can pick up pieces of their lives that have fallen apart due to illegal drugs. The administration has not fallen short on its efforts to reintegrate into society individuals who have fallen victim to drug abuse or dangerous drugs. Sustainable programs of treatment and rehabilitation has always been an integral part of the unrelenting campaign against illegal drugs.

Legislative measures are currently being taken to aid in the war against the drug menace. This measure, however, aims to show that there is an equally passionate desire to address the drug problem on all fronts, even those avenues where compassion and care serve as the best weapon.

If we are to completely succeed against the evils brought about by dangerous drugs, the fight must not stop with the elimination of drug criminals. Success can only be truly achieved once those afflicted are given a chance to win their lives back.

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


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

1 Section 1. *Creation.* — There shall be established, under the supervision of the
2 Department of Health, a Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in every
3 Province in the country, herein after referred to as "Center".

4 Sec. 2. *Objectives and Functions.* — The Center shall have the following
5 objectives and functions:

- 6 a) To provide care, treatment, and accommodation to persons found to be
7 drug dependents;
- 8 b) To bring a drug dependent to a state where he is physically, psychologically,
9 and socially capable of coping up with problems common to his peer group;
- 10 c) To facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and
11 information on the prevention, care, treatment and control of drug
12 addiction;
- 13 d) To provide after-care, follow-up, and social reintegration services to enable
14 a drug dependent to adjust to family and community life after his release;
- 15 e) To provide each drug dependent the motivation to regain self confidence,
16 rediscover his working abilities, and develop a sense of responsibility for
17 himself;

- 1 f) To encourage the formation of organizations and associations composed of
2 parents, guardians, and immediate relatives of drug dependents in order to
3 arouse their awareness and enhance their participation in the care,
4 treatment, and rehabilitation of their relatives found to be drug dependents;
5 g) To encourage the participation of the private sector, non-government
6 organizations, and faith communities in the rehabilitation and reintegration
7 process
8 h) To undertake continuous training of physicians, nurses, health officers, and
9 social workers on the practical and scientific methods of prevention, care,
10 treatment, and rehabilitation of persons found to be drug dependents; and
11 i) To strengthen the emotional and spiritual make-up of an individual drug
12 dependent by conducting regular guidance and counselling sessions as well
13 as interdenominational services.

14 *Sec. 3. Site of the Center.* — The Secretary of Health, in coordination with the
15 Secretary of Public Works and Highways, shall, taking into consideration the
16 accessibility of the Center to the people inhabiting all cities and/or municipalities under
17 the jurisdiction of the Province, determine the location thereof.

18 *Sec. 4. Organization.* — The Center shall be headed by a Director assisted by
19 two (2) Deputy Directors who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health and vested
20 with powers generally exercised by a Chief and Assistant Chief, respectively, of a
21 government hospital.

22 No person shall be appointed Director or Deputy Director unless he/she
23 possesses the following qualifications:

- 24 a) At least thirty-five (35) years of age
25 b) A physician of good repute; and
26 c) At least five (5) years of experience in the care, treatment, and rehabilitation
27 of drug dependents.

28 *Sec. 5. Personnel and Staff.* — The Director shall appoint such other personnel
29 and staff as may be necessary for the effective operation of the Center subject to
30 existing laws, rules, and regulations.

31 *Sec. 6. Five-year Development Plan.* — The Center, through its Director, shall
32 embark on a Five-year Development Plan for the fulfillment of the following:

- 1 a) To establish additional facilities equipped with new and modern equipment
2 to serve and cater to the needs of recovering drug dependents in the
3 Province;
- 4 b) To initiate plans for the development of income generating programs for
5 the ultimate purpose of generating resources to provide charity services;
- 6 c) To provide educational facilities for interns, graduate, and undergraduate
7 students of medicine;
- 8 d) To establish an informative and far-reaching information dissemination
9 program that aims to educate the people of their respective provinces about
10 all the dangers and hazards of drug dependence; and
- 11 e) To develop a continuing and effective program, with the end in view of
12 achieving reintegration of fully recovered drug dependents who can live
13 peacefully, harmoniously, and productively, with their respective
14 communities.

15 *Sec. 7. Government Assistance to the Center.* — The Secretary of Health is
16 hereby authorized to call upon any department, bureau, agency, or instrumentality of
17 the government for such assistance as maybe necessary to achieve the purposes of
18 this Act.

19 *Sec. 8. Rules and Regulations.* — The Secretary of Health shall, within sixty
20 (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue the necessary guidelines for the
21 effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

22 *Sec. 9.* — The sum necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions
23 of this Act shall be initially charged against the appropriations for the Department of
24 Health under the annual General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may
25 be necessary for the continued operation of the Center shall be included in the GAA
26 for the succeeding years.

27 *Sec. 10. Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
28 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,