

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

8 JUL 31 AM 11:40

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. NO. 2502

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is enshrined in Section 19, paragraph 2 of Article III of the 1987 Constitution that the "employment of physical, psychological, or degrading punishment against any prisoner or detainee or the use of substandard or inadequate penal facilities under subhuman conditions shall be dealt with by law."

For this purpose, under Republic Act No. 6975, it provides that "there shall be established and maintained in every district, city and municipality a secured, clean adequately equipped and sanitary jail for the custody and safekeeping of city and municipal prisoners, any fugitive from justice, or person detained awaiting investigation or trial and/or transfer to the national penitentiary, and/or violent mentally ill person who endangers himself or the safety of others, xxx."

The United Nation Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners mandates that "men and women are to be kept in separate facilities", a policy that both the PNP and the BJMP have tried to follow whenever possible. But, unfortunately this has not been complied with.

This bill seeks to safeguard female prisoners from possible crimes and all kinds of abuses, as well as to afford them, a humane condition even under detention.

Hence, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A SECURED AND SEPARATE PRISON CELL FOR
FEMALE PRISONERS IN EVERY DISTRICT, CITY AND MUNICIPAL JAIL,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 63 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975

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

SECTION 1. Section 63 of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 63. Establishment of District, City or Municipal Jail. - There shall be established and maintained in every district, city and municipality a secured, clean, adequately equipped and sanitary **SEPARATE** jails for **MALE AND FEMALE** for the custody and safekeeping of city and municipal prisoners, any fugitive from justice, or person detained awaiting investigation or trial and/or transfer to the national penitentiary, and/or violent mentally ill person who endangers himself or the safety of others, duly certified as such by the proper medical or health officer, pending the transfer to a mental institution. xxx "

SECTION 2. Separability Clause. - If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other portions thereof.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,