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SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL ON SECOND READING*

First Regular Session, Eighteenth Congress

S. NO 1055 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE FACILITY FOR PRISONERS CONVICTED OF HEINOUS CRIMES

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Referred to: Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Key words: heinous crimes, high-level offenders, inmates, secured and isolated place, sanitary penitentiary, prison facilities, maximum penal institution, state-of-the-art facility, security system capable of 24/7 monitoring

The bill proposes the establishment of a separate, state-of-the-art facility and maintenance of a secured, clean, and sanitary penitentiary for prisoners convicted of heinous crimes under the operation of the Bureau of Prison.

The transfer of inmates shall be headed by the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor). The bureau may seek the assistance of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) through the Philippine National Police (PNP) when the means of transporting will be done through the use of an aircraft vessel. Such transfer of inmates shall be made within a period of 30 days from the completion of the construction of the Heinous Crimes Facility.

When fully implemented, a report jointly prepared by the PNP and the BuCor shall be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The proposal requires the Maximum Penal Institution to be built in a suitable location to be determined by the Secretary of Justice, preferably within a military establishment or in an island separate in the mainland. It must also be located in a secured and isolated place to ensure that there is no unwarranted contact or communication with those outside of the penal institution.

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The proposal requires that there shall be three Maximum Penal Institutions for heinous crimes in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The prison administration and the Department of Justice must conduct an internal and external inspection, respectively, on a regular basis to ensure that the institution is administered in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

A Joint Congressional Oversight Committee composed of the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights and the Chairman of the House Committee on Justice with four members each from both Houses is created to review and monitor its proper implementation.

The Secretary of Justice shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act within 90 days upon its effectivity.

The Bureau of Correction is required to submit a biannual report to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives from the commencement of the construction of the facility until its completion.

The initial funds for the implementation of this Act shall be taken from the budget of the Department of Justice for the current fiscal year.

Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

(Summary prepared by: Ma. Gloria Socorro A. Ocampo, 9 December 2019)