



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

'17 MAR 16 P3:00

RECEIVED BY: _____

SENATE
SENATE BILL NO. 1401

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DRUG
AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AMONG HIGH RISK YOUTH

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The human resource is the most precious resource of our country, that's why we have to invest in our people – especially the youth. In order for them to be the true instruments of change, the government plays a vital role in shaping them and instilling a mindset of growth and opportunities to this end.

In the 2015 statistics released by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), around forty-nine percent (48.85%) of the reported cases first tried to use drugs when they were at the age group of 15-19 years old.¹

Meanwhile, in a study, it was cited that 60% of Filipino youth ages 13 years and above have taken or are taking alcoholic beverages. Seventy nine per cent (79%) are males and twenty-one per cent (21%) are females.²

Needless to say, addiction starts during the most vulnerable stage in a person's life. In addition, the environment where he grows is relative to his development and growth as a person. Hence, there is a need to target the most vulnerable sector of youth in order to give them protection from drug and alcohol abuse or to help them recover from the situation they are in.

The proposed measure gives the government a tool in targeting the high risk youth and providing for their comprehensive rehabilitation and protection from substance and alcohol abuse.

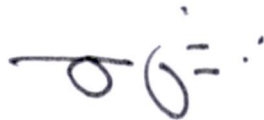
¹ 2015 Statistics, Reported Cases by Type of Admission and Gender. <http://www.ddb.gov.ph/research-statistics/statistics/45-research-and-statistics/287-2015-statistics> (Accessed on March 14, 2017).

² The Filipino as the Quintessential Drinker: A Study of Alcohol Drinking Patterns among Filipinos by Maritona Victa Labajo. https://www.hri.global/files/2010/05/02/Presentation_23rd_M10_Labajo.pdf (Accessed on March 14, 2017).

After its passage, the Secretary of Health may grant projects to public and nonprofit private entities to demonstrate effective models for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of drug abuse and alcohol abuse among high risk youth.

This kind of approach, which includes participation of the community and private entities, is seen as a holistic solution to prevent the worsening impact of addiction that plague the most vulnerable in the community.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josep Victor G. Ejercito', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOSPEH VICTOR G. EJERCITO

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Saving Young*
2 *Substance Abusers Act.*"

3
4 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - The State recognizes the vital role of the
5 youth in nation-building and shall promote their physical, moral, spiritual,
6 intellectual and social wellbeing.

7
8 **SECTION 3. "High Risk Youth" Defined.** -For purposes of this Act, the term
9 "high risk youth" means an individual who has not attained the age of
10 eighteen (18) years, who is at high risk of becoming, or who has become, a
11 drug abuser or an alcohol abuser, and who -

- 12
13 a. Is identified as a child of a substance abuser;
14 b. Is a victim of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse;
15 c. Does not attend school;
16 d. Has become pregnant;
17 e. Is economically disadvantaged;
18 f. Has committed a violent or delinquent act;
19 g. Has experienced mental health problems;
20 h. Has attempted suicide;
21 i. Has experienced long-term physical pain due to injury;
22 j. Has experienced chronic failure in school;
23 k. Is from a broken family;
24 l. Is a child laborer;

- m. Is a street child or street gang member; or
- n. Lives in conflict areas.

SECTION 4. Grants to Public and Nonprofit Private Entities. - The Secretary of Health shall make grants to public and nonprofit private entities for projects to demonstrate effective models for the prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of drug abuse and alcohol abuse among high risk youth.

SECTION 5. Priority of Projects. -

- a. In making grants for drug abuse and alcohol abuse prevention projects, the Secretary shall give priority to applications for projects directed at children of substance abusers, children at risk of abuse or neglect, preschool children, children at risk of dropping out of school, children at risk of becoming adolescent parents, children who do not attend school, child laborers, street children, and children who are at risk of being unemployed.
- b. In making grants for drug abuse and alcohol abuse treatment and rehabilitation projects, the Secretary shall give priority to projects which address the relationship between drug abuse or alcohol abuse and physical child abuse, sexual child abuse, emotional child abuse, dropping out of school, unemployment, delinquency, pregnancy, violence, suicide, or mental health problems.
- c. In making grants under this Act, the Secretary shall give priority to applications from community based organizations for projects:
 - 1. To develop innovative models with multiple coordinated services for the prevention or for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse or alcohol abuse by high risk youth.
 - 2. To demonstrate effective models with multiple coordinated services which may be replicated and which are for the prevention or for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse or alcohol abuse by high risk youth.
 - 3. That employ research designs adequate for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

SECTION 6. Strategies for Reducing Use. - The Secretary shall ensure that projects under Section 4 include strategies for reducing the use of alcoholic

1 beverages and tobacco products by individuals to whom it is unlawful to sell
2 or distribute such beverages or products.

3
4 **SECTION 7. Equal Distribution of Grants.** - To the extent feasible, the
5 Secretary shall, ensure the equal distribution of grants under this Act among
6 urban and rural areas.

7
8 **SECTION 8. Application for Grants.** - In order to receive a grant for a project
9 under this Act for a fiscal year, a public or nonprofit private entity shall
10 submit an application to the Secretary. The Secretary may provide the
11 provincial governor or the city or municipal mayor the opportunity to review
12 and comment on such application. Such application shall be in such form,
13 shall contain such information, and shall be submitted at such time as the
14 Secretary may by regulation prescribe.

15
16 **SECTION 9. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid
17 or 18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise
18 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

19
20 **SECTION 10. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
21 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative rule or regulation
22 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed,
23 modified, or amended accordingly.

24
25 **SECTION 11. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
26 after its publication in at least two newspapers of general circulation.

27
28 *Approved,*