



SENATE  
S.B. No. 237

'19 JUL -8 A11 :43

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Introduced by SENATOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III

RECEIVED

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AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR AFFORDABLE DRUG REHABILITATION TREATMENT  
FOR PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHIC)  
BENEFICIARIES, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 7875, AS  
AMENDED

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

One of the pervading social ills at present is rampant drug addiction. Various laws have been passed to prevent and control this drug menace. What has been overlooked however and has not been properly addressed is the rehabilitation of drug dependents, providing for such facilities and medical treatment to ensure their complete recovery and eventual social reintegration.

All over the Philippines, across the regions are private and government-run rehabilitation centers. However, based on a 2009 survey, there are 1.7 million drug dependents. Of this, only 2000 underwent treatment and rehabilitation. The cost of treatment and rehabilitation discourages families of drug dependents to avail of the same.

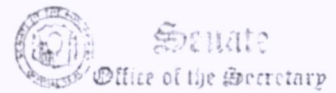
This bill therefore proposes that Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) beneficiaries who are drug dependents and who submit to treatment and rehabilitation to an accredited health care provider shall be at an affordable cost. This is pursuant to the constitutional mandate, "that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost."

Republic Act No. 7875, an Act instituting a National Health Insurance Program for all Filipinos and establishing the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) for the purpose was amended by Republic Act No. 9241. This amendment highlighted the inclusion of drug abuse and dependency treatment as among those personal services covered. It also recognized rehabilitation centers as health institutions that are considered as health care providers.

This bill further proposes amendment to specifically include rehabilitation treatment as among the enumerated categories of personal health services to ensure its beneficiaries of affordable rehabilitation treatment. This bill also calls for the application for accreditation of Rehabilitation Centers in order that PhilHealth members will be accorded the proposed benefits.

The approval of this proposed bill, is therefore, recommended.

  
**VICENTE C. SOTTO III**



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

1 SECTION 1. **Declaration of Policy.** - It is a declared policy of the  
2 State to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health  
3 development including the rehabilitation treatment of drug dependents and  
4 individuals victimized by the menace of drug abuse. With the alarming and  
5 continuously increasing drug addiction in the country, a faceless enemy that  
6 ruins countless lives and cripples the potentials of our youth, the State  
7 affirms a policy of society against drugs and for the purpose, provides  
8 affordable drug rehabilitation treatment for Philippine Health Insurance  
9 Corporation beneficiaries.

10 SECTION 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7875, as amended, is  
11 hereby further amended to read as follows:

12 "Section 4. Definition of Terms. - For the purpose of this Act, the  
13 following terms shall be defined as follows:

14 XXX

15 **ZZ) DRUG DEPENDENT AS DEFINED UNDER RA 9165**  
16 **(COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002), A PERSON**  
17 **EXHIBITING A CLUSTER OF PHYSIOLOGICAL, BEHAVIORAL AND**  
18 **COGNITIVE PHENOMENA OF VARIABLE INTENSITY, IN WHICH**  
19 **THE USE OF PSYCHOACTIVE DRUG TAKES ON A HIGH PRIORITY**  
20 **THEREBY INVOLVING, AMONG OTHERS, A STRONG DESIRE OR A**  
21 **SENSE OF COMPULSION TO TAKE THE SUBSTANCE AND THE**

1           **DIFFICULTIES IN CONTROLLING SUBSTANCE-TAKING BEHAVIOR**  
2           **IN TERMS OF ITS ONSET, TERMINATION, OR LEVELS OF USE.**

3           SECTION 3. Section 10 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as  
4 follows:

5           "Section 10. Benefit Package.- Members and their dependents are  
6 entitled to the following minimum services, subject to the limitations  
7 specified in this Act and as may be determined by the Corporation"

8           Xxx

9           d) Such other health care services that the Corporation and the DOH  
10 shall determine to be appropriate and cost-effective.

11           These services and packages shall be reviewed annually to determine  
12 their financial sustainability and relevance to health innovations, with  
13 the end in view of quality assurance, increased benefits and reduced  
14 out- of- pocket expenditures; **AND**

15           **E) REHABILITATION TREATMENT OF DRUG DEPENDENTS**

16           **(1) ROOM AND BOARD;**

17           **(2) SERVICES OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**

18           **(3) PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND BIOLOGICALS, SUBJECT TO THE**  
19 **LIMITATIONS STATED IN SECTION 37 OF THIS ACT.**

20           **THESE SERVICES AND PACKAGES SHALL BE REVIEWED**  
21 **ANNUALLY IN KEEPING WITH ITS PROTECTION OBJECTIVES**  
22 **AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY.**

23           SECTION 4. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Philippine  
24 Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC) shall issue the necessary  
25 implementing rules and regulations in consultation with the Dangerous  
26 Drugs Board and relevant sectors for the effective implementation of this  
27 Act.

28           SECTION 5. ***Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, issuances, or parts thereof  
29 inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

30           SECTION 6. ***Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
31 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers  
32 of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

*Approved,*