

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

SENATE

S. No. 658

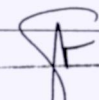


Senate

Office of the Secretary

19 JUL 22 P 2 :05

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RECEIVED BY: 

**AN ACT
CREATING A REHABILITATION CENTER FOR JUVENILE RUGBY USERS,
PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 3 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution and Section 2, subparagraph (a) of Republic Act No. 9344 recognizes that children have a role in nation building and it is the State's duty to promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being. In line with this and considering the current drug problem in the Philippines, it is imperative that the State also rehabilitates those children who, because of poverty or poor state of mind, have resorted to drugs.

According to the Dangerous Drugs Board, rugby, a contact cement used as an adhesive, is one the top three drugs of choice of Filipino drug users because of its accessibility and affordability. While there are available rehabilitation programs for children in conflict with the law who are found to be drug users, there is a lack thereof for juvenile rugby users.

Chronic inhalation of rugby is detrimental to one's health and if not rehabilitated or restored, can have permanent repercussions to one's brain and nervous system among others.

Given the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Rugby Boys Act of
2 2019."

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall be the policy of the State as *parens*
4 *patriae* to take all appropriate measures, including legislative, administrative, social
5 and educational measures, to protect children from the illicit use of narcotic drugs and
6 psychotropic substances as defined in the relevant international treaties, and to
7 prevent the use of children in the illicit production and trafficking of such substances.
8 The State shall rehabilitate and restore the children to their healthy mental and
9 physical state who have been users of the substance called rugby.

10 Sec. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - The following terms as used in this Act shall be
11 defined as follows:

12 (a) "Child" refers to a person under the age of eighteen (18) years old.

13 (b) "Bahay Malaya" refers to the 24-hour rehabilitation center for juvenile rugby
14 users operated by the Department of Health.

15 (c) "Rugby" refers to the contact cement product which contains Toluene which
16 is a substance listed in Table II of the 1988 U.N. Convention against Illicit Traffic in
17 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

18 (d) "Best Interest of the Child" refers to the totality of the circumstances and
19 conditions which are most congenial to the survival, protection and feelings of security

1 of the child and most encouraging to the child's physical, psychological and emotional
2 development. It also means the least detrimental available alternative for safeguarding
3 the growth and development of the child.

4 (e) "Parents" refers to the biological parent or adoptive parent or individuals
5 who have custody of the child.

6 (f) "Neglected child" as defined in Presidential Decree No. 603 refers to a child
7 whose basic needs have been deliberately unattended or inadequately attended.
8 There is a physical neglect when the child is malnourished, ill-clad and without proper
9 shelter. A child is unattended when left by himself without provisions for his needs
10 and/or without proper supervision.

11 *Sec. 4. Creation of Bahay Malaya.* – Every province and city shall have a
12 rehabilitation center for juvenile rugby users. Said center shall be built and funded by
13 the local government unit involved and operated by the Department of Health. The
14 programs implemented by the Department of Health shall be funded by itself. These
15 juvenile rugby users shall undergo proper specialized medical treatments or programs
16 that will allow them to recover from rugby addiction or rugby use and restore them
17 from the effects of inhaling rugby.

18 *Sec. 4. Admission to the Bahay Malaya.* – When a child is caught inhaling rugby
19 or using rugby for the first time, he shall be mandated to join an initial conference at
20 the Bahay Malaya with his parents.

21 If a child is caught for the second time or more, he shall be admitted to the
22 rehabilitation program in Bahay Malaya. A child shall only be admitted to the Bahay
23 Malaya for his rehabilitation when a child's parent has given his consent; *Provided*
24 that consent is not needed when a civil servant of the Department of Social Welfare
25 and Development deems such admission is warranted or one of the child's parent is
26 also a user of rugby; *Provided further*, that the admission to Bahay Malaya is for the
27 best interest of the child.

28 *Sec. 5. Parental Responsibility.* – The parents of the juvenile rugby user are
29 mandated to undergo counselling or any other intervention as the DSWD civil servant
30 deems necessary in advancing the best interest of the child.

1 Parents of juvenile rugby user who are deemed neglected upon intervention of
2 the DSWD, shall be penalized with imprisonment of two (2) weeks to not more than
3 six (6) months.

4 *Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days, the
5 Department of Health, in coordination with the Department of Interior and Local
6 Government, and Department of Social Welfare and Development shall formulate the
7 rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

8 *Sec. 7. Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to build and establish Bahay
9 Malaya as stated in this Act shall be shouldered by the LGU concerned. For the
10 operation of Bahay Malaya, the amount of one hundred million pesos
11 (P100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated to the Department of Health.

12 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
13 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall
14 remain in force and effect.

15 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
16 order, letter of instruction, rule or regulation inconsistent with the provisions of this
17 Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

18 *Sec. 10. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
19 complete publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

20
21 *Approved,*