

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Senate
Office of the Secretary

'19 JUL 24 A9 :58

SENATE

S. B. NO. 717

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by **SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA**

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM
AND PROVIDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO INMATES IN
DETENTION FACILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), there are approximately 70,000 inmates in 989 jails nationwide who are mostly 18 to 39 years old. To rehabilitate these inmates, the Bureau of Corrections has incorporated vocational programs into the job assignments of inmates in most correctional facilities.

This bill seeks to institutionalize this practice by mandating the establishment of a skills training program for inmates in all correctional facilities in the Philippines. The implementation of the Program shall be spearheaded by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Justice (DOJ). In addition, skills advancement or training inside prison will be matched with job search assistance to help ex-inmates find work once outside of prison.

Indeed, transition services, especially technical vocational education and training (TVET), can improve the self-esteem of inmates. With employable skills, they can find new life when they leave detention, never to get back in jail. Tech-voc training will also bring new hope to the offenders because they know they have the skills that can be their passport to employment opportunities once they leave confinement. Aside from these,

tech-voc training will also aid in breaking the cycle of recidivism of certain prisoners.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

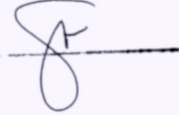

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OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 “Kabuhayan for
2 Offenders through Skills Advancement (KOSA) Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Establishment of Skills Training Program for Inmates.** – The
5 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department
6 of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and
7 Department of Justice (DOJ) shall establish skills training program for all
8 inmates in the Philippines.
9

10 In addition, a Job Search and Livelihood Assistance Desk shall be established
11 inside prisons to help ex-offenders create sustainable employment once they
12 are released from prison.
13

14 **SEC. 3. Appropriations.** –The amount necessary for the implementation of
15 this Act shall be sourced from the current budgets of TESDA, DepEd, DOLE
16 and DOJ. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation
17 of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
18

19 **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days after
20 the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA, DepEd, DOLE and DOJ, in consultation
21 with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for
22 the effective implementation of this Act.
23

1 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
3 circulation.

4
5 **Approved,**