

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )



24 JUL -9 P 4 :28

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**SENATE**  
**S. No. 2721**

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Introduced by Senator Raffy T. Tulfo

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**  
**AUTHORITY TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL**  
**EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY**  
**FOR REHABILITATED DRUG DEPENDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) shared that 8,200 former drug dependents availed and graduated from the institution's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in 2021. While this shows that many former drug dependents are eager to improve their lives, there are still many of them who were not able to avail the TVET program and also needed opportunities for upskilling to sustain their livelihoods after they underwent rehabilitation. In fact, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) reported in March 2024 that at least 314,917 drug-dependent individuals graduated from the community-based rehabilitation programs.

The passage of this bill will institutionalize (TVET) and livelihood programs which will be specifically designed for former drug dependents. This serves as a significant component in allowing these individuals a chance to rebuild their lives. This will also open opportunities for them to find work or start their own businesses.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

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**RAFFY T. TULFO**

A small, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, located to the right of the printed name.

Senator

/ldv  
/dp

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**THEREFOR**

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

1           Section 1. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA),  
2 in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), shall  
3 institutionalize the provision of technical-vocational education and training (TVET) and  
4 livelihood programs designed specifically for rehabilitated drug dependents. The TVET  
5 and livelihood programs shall focus on competitive and employable skills that can be  
6 acquired and developed by rehabilitated drug dependents to further enhance their  
7 ability to find gainful employment and entrepreneurial livelihood opportunities.

8           The DOLE shall provide incentives to companies which shall employ  
9 rehabilitated drug dependents who have undergone the TVET and livelihood programs  
10 mandated under this Act.

11           Sec. 2. The Director General of TESDA shall immediately include in the  
12 Authority's programs the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be  
13 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1           Sec. 3. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA shall,  
2 in coordination with the DOLE, formulate the rules and regulations for the effective  
3 implementation of this Act.

4           Sec. 4. All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of  
5 instructions, rules or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
6 repealed or modified accordingly.

7           Sec. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
8 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,