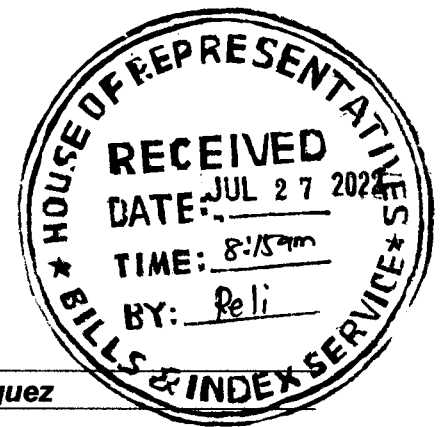


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **2461**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) first emerged in Wuhan, Hubei, China, in December 2019. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a pandemic. In the Philippines, the first case of COVID-19, confirmed on January 30, 2020.

Under Proclamation 929, dated March 16, 2020, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte declared a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines for 6 months. Subsequently, under Proclamation 1021, the President extended the State of Calamity until September 12, 2021.

The declaration of State of Calamity was basically done to afford the National Government, as well as Local Government Units, ample latitude to continue utilizing appropriate funds in their efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The focus should be on COVID-19.

Unfortunately, the drug problem still persists and could be considered to have worsened during this pandemic and during the state of calamity.

According to the Philippine National Police, it has conducted 3,413 anti-illegal drug operations from September 2 to 27, 2020. A total of 4,354 drug offenders were arrested and 2.2 kilograms of shabu and 13.7 kg of marijuana "with a combined value of PHP151.5 million in the street market" were confiscated. Further, the Police Regional Office-Cordillera destroyed three marijuana farms with an estimated value of PHP3.84 million in Kalinga.

Aside from the dangers that COVID-19 pose to our police officers, they still have to face the problems brought about by illegal drugs.

Thus, the need to amend Republic Act 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 to include a provision making the commission of any of the unlawful acts prescribed by the law during a pandemic or state of calamity an aggravating circumstance increasing the penalty one degree higher.

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


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. **2461**

AN ACT

AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165 ENTITLED "AN ACT INSTITUTING THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002, REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6425, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 1972, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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

SECTION 1. A new Section 36 is hereby added to Republic Act No. 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 to read as follows:

Sec 36. *Aggravating Circumstance.* – The penalty one degree higher shall be imposed if any of the unlawful acts above are committed during an epidemic, pandemic, calamity, or during a State of Calamity as declared by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. All succeeding sections are hereby renumbered accordingly.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.