

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9524



Introduced by HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Drug abuse and addiction have evolved into a pressing social issue that significantly impacts every facet of Philippine society. While not all substance addictions inherently entail criminal activities, the detrimental consequences for individuals and communities mirror those associated with illegal drugs when abused.

It is imperative to recognize that drug dependency is a disease necessitating professional intervention through rehabilitation. However, rehabilitation for illegal drug dependents is often prohibitively expensive, dissuading many individuals grappling with drug or alcohol addictions from seeking help. Two predominant factors contribute to this reluctance: the fear of discrimination for having an addiction and apprehensions about the cost and efficacy of rehabilitation.

Privately-owned rehabilitation facilities typically demand monthly fees ranging from Php 10,000.00 to Php 100,000.00, contingent on the facility and the required type of rehabilitation. In contrast, government-operated centers offer more affordable options, with costs ranging from Php 5,000.00 to Php 10,000.00 per month. These monthly fees encompass the patient's accommodation, rehabilitation programs, and often their day-to-day essentials. In government-operated rehab centers, daily necessities like food and water are covered by government funding, while privately-owned centers might impose additional monthly personal allowance fees.

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution emphasizes the State's duty to protect and promote the right to health and instill health consciousness among its citizens. Furthermore, Article XIII, Section 11 underscores the State's responsibility to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, ensuring essential goods, health services, and other social services are accessible at an affordable cost, with a priority on the needs of the marginalized, sick, elderly, disabled, women, and children. The State must also strive to provide free medical care to paupers.

In accordance with the constitutional mandates mentioned above, this bill seeks to establish accessible and affordable Rehabilitation Centers for Illegal Drug Users who voluntarily seek treatment in each province of the Philippines. It envisages collaboration between provincial governments and relevant government agencies to facilitate these centers' establishment. Additionally, the bill aims to provide comprehensive social reintegration programs and follow-ups for illegal drug dependents, preparing them for successful reintegration into the community after treatment.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.



REP. GUS S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REHABILITATION CENTER FOR ILLEGAL DRUGS
USERS IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Section 1. There shall be established, through the Department of Health (DOH), jointly with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the concerned provincial government, a Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drug Users in every province in the country.

SEC. 2. The Provincial Governor, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Public Works and Highways, shall determine the location of each Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drug Users, taking into consideration its accessibility to the residents of remote areas.

SEC. 3. The DOH, in coordination with the provincial government, shall exercise supervision and control over each Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drug Users, in addition to the duties and responsibilities of the Department under Section 76 of Republic Act (RA) No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

SEC. 4. The program for the voluntary or compulsory submission of a drug dependent and other legal processes related thereby shall be in compliance to the provisions in Article VIII of RA 9165.

SEC. 5. The Rehabilitation Center for Illegal Drugs Users shall provide affordable and accessible treatment and care to persons who committed abuse of illegal drugs and voluntarily submit for rehabilitation. It shall further make available a comprehensive social reintegration program and follow-up for illegal drug dependents to prepare them for reintegration in the community after the treatment.

SEC. 6. *Funding.* – The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the concerned government agencies as part of their annual budget.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The DOH, in consultation with the DSWD and the DILG, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions not affected thereby.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspaper of national circulation.

Approved,