

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2623



Introduced by HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has been said that the key to solving the drug problem lies not in the arrest or incarceration of the drug addict but in his rehabilitation. A person suffering from drug addiction and other substance abuse who had undergone therapy in a rehabilitation center is more likely to be caught in a vicious cycle of drug use, apprehension and cure if the program is inadequate and unresponsive. It is in this regard that a drive against the drug menace, however sincere and resolute, fails in eliminating or reducing the incidence of use and abuse.

Unfortunately, anti-illegal drug campaigns, now and in the past, have overlooked the importance of providing effective rehabilitation program for drug dependents. Law enforcement officers seem content in arresting drug users, especially when the opportunity for media coverage presents itself, as if they are involved in a numbers game of tallying as many apprehensions as can be possible.

Undoubtedly, the drug problem continues to escalate. Figures made available by the Dangerous Drugs Board's National Household Survey on the Nature and Extent of Drug Abuse in the Philippines show that there are about 1.8 million regular users and 1.6 million occasional users. Records also show that the number of drug-affected barangays is 6,020 or 14.5% of the country's 42,061 barangays. In Pangasinan, there are a total of 100 barangays of the 1,364 barangays that are still drug-affected.

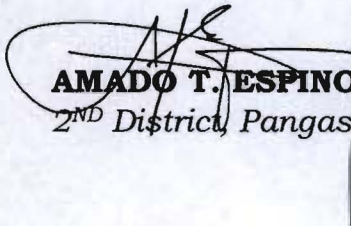
Even with these data already on hand, government is still remiss in adequately providing the relevant components of an effective drug

program. The lack of focus on the reform and recovery aspects is evident in the lack of rehabilitation centers for drug users as compared to the number of existing reform institutions, private rehabilitation centers included, that are not only few and constant, most of which are unaffordable and inaccessible to many.

Considering the problems presented above, the establishment of drug rehabilitation centers finds merit.

It is the intention of this bill to establish a District Drug Rehabilitation Center in the 2nd District of Pangasinan, to lend importance to the reform process for drug addicts and provide a venue for rehabilitation that does not only suppress the dependent's wants but, most importantly, address his needs.

The approval of this bill is then earnestly requested.


AMADO T. ESPINO, JR
2ND District, Pangasinan

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN
THE MANGATAREM DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF MANGATAREM, PROVINCE OF
PANGASINAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in the Mangatarem District Hospital in the Municipality of Mangatarem, Province of Pangasinan, a District drug Rehabilitation Center for drug dependents. The structure, physical and administrative, of the Drug Rehabilitation Center shall be patterned after the existing Treatment and rehabilitation Center for drug Dependents at Tagaytay City.

SECTION 2. There shall be created a District Drug Rehabilitation Board to be composed of the following:

- a) The Department of Health (DOH) Regional director as Chairman;
- b) The Department of Justice (DOJ) representative to be designated by the Secretary of Justice as Co-Chairman; and

- c) The incumbent Representative of the 2nd Legislative District and the incumbent Mayors of all the towns within the legislative district as members.

SECTION 3. The District Drug Rehabilitation Center established under this Act shall be operated and maintained by the department of Health, as the lead agency, and the National Bureau of Investigation under the supervision of the District Drug Rehabilitation Board.

SECTION 4. The Department of Health and the Department of Justice shall promulgate, within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Implementing Rules, Regulations and Guidelines necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 5. An initial amount of TEN MILLION PESOS (PHP 10,000,000.00) shall be appropriated to implement the provisions of this act to be funded from any available source in the National Treasury, which shall be used for the following purposes:

- a) Construction of a building, to be administered by the Department of Public works and Highways; and
- b) Operation and Maintenance of the Center, including the hiring of personnel.

The above amount shall regularly be included in the annual budget of the Department of Health starting with the year immediately following the approval of this Act, with corresponding upward adjustments every year thereafter.

SECTION 6. All laws, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 7. If any provision of this Act shall be held or declared invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,