

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 3661

Introduced by: HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to institute a system whereby prisoner serving sentences up to six months can serve their sentences by serving in community work camps where they can render useful and productive community service.

In the past, prisoners were made to serve their prison terms together with other prisoners who are recidivist or habitual delinquents, or hardened criminals who are able to influence these prisoners into a permanent life of crime. Parents relatives and friends find out that after in short stint in jail, their loved one who had spent some time in jail has become a hardened criminal.

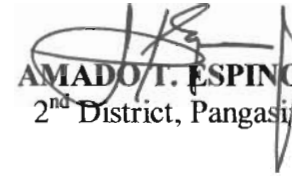
But the years of neglect of these convicts should not prevent our government from instituting prisons reforms that can assist in the reformation of this convicted criminals to turn a new leaf, most especially those who are serving short sentences as they have committed less grave felonies. In fact, it should encourage us to institute these reforms as there are some convicted criminals who had serve even longer terms but who have turned changed for the better.

Furthermore, exposure to most normal conditions outside of these prison walls is an opportunity for the convicts to see a better side in life and for the community to benefit from the labor that these convicts can contribute to society. These can also help the convicts as time spent outside the prison walls prevents them from become hardened criminals.

It is the hope of the proponent that convicted offenders of less grave offenses need not serve their sentences in prison but in Community Work Camps where their services

can become beneficial to the community and assure the convicts rehabilitation and integration into society.

It is therefore earnestly requested that this measure be approved.


AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.
2nd District, Pangasinan

Republic of the Philippines
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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

3661

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Introduced by: HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM FOR
CONVICTED PRISONERS, CREATING COMMUNITY SERVICE CAMPS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines
Congress assembled.*

SECTION 1. This act shall be known as the "COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
ACT".

SECTION 2. The penalties to *arrest mayor* and *arresto menor* may be executed and
served to the rendition of community service.

For the purpose of this Act, *community service* shall include tree planting, building
artificial reefs, participating in demonstration farm projects or other livelihood projects
and environment rehabilitation projects which are part of programs designated or
identified in the Implementing Rules and Guidelines in compliance with this measure.

SECTION 3. Prisoners who have a remaining six (6) months or less to serve may, upon
the discretion of the Secretaries of Justice and the Interior and Local Government and
upon the recommendation of Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, continue to serve
the remaining portion of the sentence by community service.

SECTION 4. Prisoner rendering community service as provided for in this Act shall
stay in the Community Work Camps which shall be established pursuant therefore
depending on their continued good behavior and performance.

SECTION 5. For this purposed, the Department of Justice, Agriculture, Environment
and Natural Resources, National Defense and Interior and Local Government shall
jointly issue the necessary Implementing Rules and Guidelines for the effective

implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. All general and special laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, proclamation and administrative regulations or part or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. If for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions of this Act shall not be effected thereby and shall continue to be in force and effect.

SECTION 8. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriation Act of the year following its enactment into law. Thereafter, any such sums needed for the continued implementation of this program shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.