

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

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4647



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

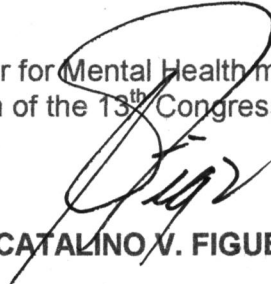
The continuing deterioration of the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) makes it extremely difficult to fulfill its mandate to the detriment of its mental patients. The said institution is not well-equipped with machinery in order for it to fully serve the needs of its mentally deprived patients.

This representation strongly believes for the immediate and urgent rehabilitation and modernization of the NCMH to make it more effective and responsive to the mental patient's health needs and concerns. The said institution has not gone through rehabilitation and development for years and, perhaps, the government may have overlooked the significance of its services being offered to its mental patients.

Moreover, the NCMH is tasked with a very crucial and sensitive responsibility; that is, providing reliable and accessible medication to the public particularly the mentally-disabled patients.

It is, therefore, incumbent upon Congress to initiate the modernization and rehabilitation of the NCMH.

It is hoped that the National Center for Mental Health modernization will find solace during the 2nd regular session of the 13th Congress.


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REHABILITATION AND MODERNIZATION OF THE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH (NCMH), APPROPRIATING
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. *Title.* This Act shall be known as the "NCMH Rehabilitation and Improvement Act".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared that the policy of the State to improve the health and medical condition of the public especially the patients suffering from mental illnesses. Towards this end, the State shall undertake the modernization of the country's only mental health institution, to ensure the safety and well-being of the mentally deprived patients.

In the implementation of the foregoing policy, the State shall, in accordance with the provisions of this Act:

(a) undertake measures to improve the current state of the mental institution in the country;

(b) provide greater awareness by the public of the systems being offered by the NCMH through various programs and projects and other related information;

(c) upgrade, modernize, and procure the latest model of clinical and medical apparatus/equipment, instruments and facilities and application of the new technologies to improve our capabilities in providing timely and reliable medical service across the country.

SECTION 3. *Program Description.* The modernization program under this Act shall principally be a re-tooling of NCMH with modern equipment and facilities, including but not limited to, procurement of the latest and most up-to-date medical instruments, tools and apparatus; repair major areas which needs to be rehabilitate such as the patients pavilion, lavatory area, and waiting area for relatives and friends of the patients who may not be allowed to enter a designated room; offer nutritious and healthy foods not only to the patients but to its employees as well; repair and repainting of the NCMH building and its environment; establish an efficient human resources development program that emphasizes on professional education, training and research for the employees and its work force.

SECTION 4. *NCMH Modernization Fund.* There is hereby created the National Center For Mental Health (NCMC) Modernization Fund which shall be used exclusively to fund the modernization program provided under this Act. The national government is hereby mandated to allocate and appropriate Five Hundred Million Pesos (P500,000,000,.00) which shall comprise the said

fund, and which thereafter include whatever funds maybe made available from.

The Modernization Fund shall be administered by the Secretary of Health in accordance with government auditing rules and regulations and procedures.

SECTION 5. *Annual Report* . The Secretary of Health and the Director of the NCMH shall submit to the Office of the President and the Congressional Committees on Health, a quarterly report on the progress of the modernization program for the duration of its implementation.

SECTION 6. *Repeal of Inconsistent Law*. All laws, orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or part thereof, which are inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity*. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,