



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

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4699



Introduced by Honorable Remedios "Matin" L. Petilla

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks for the establishment of the Productivity Center for Mentally Challenged youths and adults in the First District of Leyte and in Region 8. Through specialized training program, these individuals with sub-average intellectual capabilities will acquire productive skills and positive habits for income generating economic activities. By undergoing the required opportunity for training, they will be capacitated to earn a living and become useful citizens to society.

The data of the National Statistics Office of the Philippines 2005, clearly indicate that out of the projected Eighty Four (84) Million population, an estimated 10% are categorized as persons with disabilities. Based on several studies and reports on mental retardation, an estimated 84% of those who are mentally challenged persons are educable. As such, if given the required specialized training programs, these prospective clients can be self-reliant and economically productive.

In the Province of Leyte and Eastern Visayas, the establishment of the Productivity Center for mentally challenged youths and adults, is a pioneering intervention to enable them to develop their work potential for employment, and to live useful and satisfying life. The training of the aforesaid clients to achieve optimal work functioning through vocational skills training and productivity employments with the specialized facilities

and personalized individual supervision by highly skilled mentors, are the primary concerns and commitment of the Center. Besides, the Center will administer the psychological testing to determine the maximum functioning for social adjustments, vocational and other activities of the clients.

Moreover, this measure is supportive to the provision of Republic Act No. 5416 of 1968, Section 3 which mandates for "the government to provide a comprehensive program of social services designed to ameliorate the living conditions of distressed Filipino particularly those who are handicapped by poverty, youth, physical and mental disability, illness and old age opportunity. The State shall endeavor to provide it by sheltered employment and accord due regard to the individual qualities, vocational goals and inclinations to ensure good working atmosphere and effective production.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is sincerely requested.


REMEDIOS L. PETILLA




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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PRODUCTIVITY CENTER FOR MENTALLY
CHALLENGED PERSONS IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF THE
PROVINCE OF LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR.

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established in the First District of the Province of Leyte, a Productivity Center for mentally challenged persons, under the supervision of the Department of Education in coordination with the Department of Health and Department of Social Welfare and Development.

SEC. 2. The Center shall be headed by a Director to be assisted by two (2) Deputy Directors who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Education.

SEC. 3. The Director shall appoint such other personnel and staff as may be necessary for the effective operation of the center subject to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SEC. 4. The Center, through its Director shall be authorized to embark on a Five-Year Development Plan in the fulfillment of the following:

- 1) To establish additional building facility equipped with new and modern equipment to serve and cater not only to mentally challenged persons from Region VIII but from other neighboring regions as well;
- 2) To initiate plans for the development of income generating programs for the ultimate purpose of generating resources to provide charity services; and
- 3) To provide vocational skills training and positive habits for income generating economic activities with specialized facilities and personalized individual supervision by highly skilled mentors.

SEC. 5 The Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Social Welfare and Development, is hereby authorized to call upon any department, bureau, agency or instrumentality of the government for such assistances as may be necessary to effectively implement their Act.

SEC. 6. The Director of the Center is hereby authorized with the approval of the Secretary of Education to promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to secure an effective administration of the Center and the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Department of Education under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,