

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

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **5821**



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a drug rehabilitation center in every city and capital municipality in the country.

Drug abuse has reached its alarming proportion not only in Metro Manila but also in most cities and towns in the country. Illegal drug use in the country jumped by more than two-thirds over the past five years with young urban dwellers increasingly using amphetamines popularly known as "shabu" and other unregulated drugs.

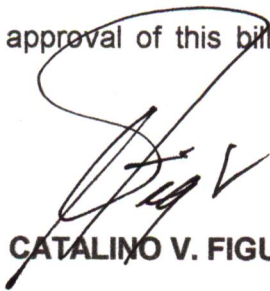
The menace of illegal drugs is much more damaging in the long term than other crimes because they destroy the very heart and hope of our country – the youth. Many lives are lost or destroyed because of illegal drugs. The far-reaching consequences of the use and abuse of dangerous drugs threaten the integrity and stability of our government and the welfare of our people. Thus, total war against the use of illegal drugs must be declared by the government whose primary objective is to eradicate or prevent the spread of illicit drug traffic in the country.

We should not also forget, however, that a drug dependent is not a criminal but a victim who is in need of medical and psychiatric treatment and still can become a useful member of society. The government should likewise direct its national programs to promote and sustain the treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse, especially in the critical after-care and reintegration stages. Bringing back a person to the normal state of being where he can successfully cope with the physical, psychological and social demands of family and community life is one way of helping a drug dependent become a useful and productive member of the community.

The proposed measure, therefore, envisions the establishment of a drug rehabilitation center in every city and capital municipality in the country

so that we can make accessible to every drug dependent medical facilities for a speedy recovery from the ill-effects brought about by dangerous drugs.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is highly and earnestly recommended.



CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DRUG REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY CITY
AND CAPITAL MUNICIPALITY IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Drug Rehabilitation Center. – A drug rehabilitation center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, is hereby established, in every city and municipality in the country which shall be under the supervision of the Department of Health.

SECTION 2. Objectives and Functions. – The Center shall have the following objectives and functions:

- a) Provide care, treatment and accommodation to persons found be drug dependents;
- b) Bring a drug dependent to a state where he is physically, psychologically and socially capable of coping with problems common to his peer group;

- c) Facilitate and encourage the dissemination and exchange of ideas and information on the prevention, care, treatment and control of drug addiction;
- d) Provide after care, follow-up and social reintegration services to enable a drug dependent to adjust to family and community life after his release;
- e) Provide each drug dependent motivation to regain self-confidence, rediscover his working abilities and develop a sense of responsibility for himself;
- f) Encourage the formation of organizations and associations composed of parents, guardians and immediate relative of drug dependents in order to arouse their awareness and enhance their participation in the care, treatment and rehabilitation of their relatives or wards found to be drug dependent patients;
- g) Undertake continuous training of physicians, nurses, health officers and social workers on the practical and scientific methods of prevention, care, treatment and rehabilitation of persons found to be drug dependents;
- h) Strengthen the emotional and spiritual make-up of an individual drug dependent by conducting regular guidance and counseling sessions as well as interdenominational church services; and
- i) Perform other related functions required to achieve the objectives of the Center.

SECTION 3. Site of the Center. – Taking into consideration the accessibility of the Center to its clientele, the Secretary of Health shall, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government and Secretary of Public Works and Highways, determine the location thereof.

SECTION 4. Organization. – The Center shall be headed by a Director to be assisted by an assistant director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Health and vested with powers generally exercised by a Chief and Assistant Chief, respectively, of a government hospital.

No person shall be appointed Director or Assistant unless he possesses the following qualifications:

- a) At least thirty-five (35) years of age;
- b) A physician of good repute; and
- c) Has five (5) years experience in the care, treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents.

SECTION 5. Personnel and Staff. – The Directors shall appoint such other personnel and staff as maybe necessary for the effective operation of the Center subject to existing laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 6. Government Assistance. – The Secretary of Health is hereby authorize to call upon any department, bureaus, agency or instrumentalities of the government for such assistance as maybe necessary to effectively implement this Act.

SECTION 7. Rule and Regulations. – The Secretary of Health shall, within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate such rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. – The sum necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations for the Department of Health under the current general Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amounts as maybe necessary for the continued operation of the Center shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in any two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,