

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2376

Introduced by **Rep. Gabriel Luis R. Quisumbing**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Illegal drugs and substance abuse, and its proliferation has indeed grown into a socio-political menace gnawing at society's existence.

The Philippines, as shown in recent reports from different intelligence communities has become a major exporter of marijuana and transshipment point in the global traffic in illegal drugs. What is happening is that this seems to be the only industry where the country has a growing "competitiveness". It is nothing to be proud of.

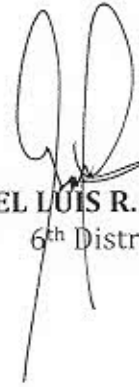
It is a big problem in Metro Manila, other urban centers, and even in rural areas such as the Sixth District of Cebu Province. The youth whom Rizal has called "the hope of the land", have fallen prey to drug pushers. In most parts of the country, the illegal drugs industry is thriving with the protection of police officers and influential people. A large percentage of heinous crimes committed daily happen while under the influence of drugs, or under the compulsion to raise money to satisfy the cravings for drugs. This has also prompted the enactment of the law providing for death penalty for heinous crimes.

Due to the vast ill-gotten resources of drug syndicates, the sophistication with which they ply their illicit trade, and the threats they pose to society, it is imperative that there must be a separate judicial body tasked to address the situation with dispatch.



Taking the foregoing into consideration the creation and establishment of a special drug court with the end in view to facilitate and hasten the filing and disposition of drug related cases, is timely called for.

Hence, the early approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' and 'L' followed by a smaller 'R' and 'Q'. The signature is written over the printed name and district information.

GABRIEL LUIS R. QUISUMBING
6th District, Cebu

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2376

Introduced by **Rep. Gabriel Luis R. Quisumbing**

"AN ACT DESIGNATING A REGIONAL TRIAL COURT WITHIN THE CITY OR PROVINCE TO SIT AS SPECIAL DRUG COURT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE X, SECTION 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE"

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

SECTION 1. *Section 39, Article X (10) of Republic Act No. 6425 is hereby amended to read as follows:*

JURISDICTION OVER DANGEROUS DRUG CASES

"SEC. 39. JURISDICTION [OF THE CIRCUIT CRIMINAL COURT] - THE [CIRCUIT CRIMINAL] **REGIONAL TRIAL COURT ESPECIALLY DESIGNATED AS SPECIAL DRUG COURT** SHALL HAVE EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER ALL CASES INVOLVING OFFENSES PUNISHABLE UNDER THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 1972 **AS AMENDED: PROVIDED, THAT IN CASES WHERE THE ACCUSED HAD ALREADY BEEN ARAIGNED AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE SAME SHALL CONTINUE TO BE HEARD UNTIL THIS TERMINATION.**"

THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF CASES FILED UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE TERMINATED WITHIN A PERIOD OF SEVEN (7)]DAYS FROM THE DATE OF [TERMINATION OF THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION] **ITS FILING. IF THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION IS CONDUCTED BY A JUDGE AND** [WHERE] A PRIMA FACIE CASE IS [ESTABLISHED] **FOUND TO EXIST, THE**



CORRESPONDING INFORMATION SHALL BE FILED [IN COURT] **BY THE PROPOER PROSECUTING OFFICER** WITHIN TWENTY FOUR (24) HOURS **FROM THE DATE OF RECEIPT OF RECORDS OF THE CASE. TRIAL OF THIS CASES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE FINISHED BY THE COURT NOT LATER THAN NINETY (90) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF FILING OF INFORMATION.** DECISION ON SAID CASES SHALL BE RENDERED WITHIN A PERIOD OF [FIFTEEN (15)] **TEN (10)** DAYS FROM THE DATE OF SUBMISSION OF THE CASE.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,