

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5018

Introduced by **Rep. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is a declared policy of the State to provide special protection to children from all forms of abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination, and other conditions prejudicial to their development. The State shall intervene on behalf of the child when the parent, guardian, teacher, or person having care or custody of the child fails or is unable to protect or when such acts against the child are committed by the said parent, guardian, teacher or person having care and custody of the same.

Young people below eighteen (18) years of age are vulnerable to deprivation of basic needs for survival, such as food and shelter including physical abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation and discrimination. Research shows that the impact of youth homelessness on socio-economic order is alarming.

The diverse issues attendant to homeless youth requires collaboration of various stakeholders, seamless in nature, and effectively delivered by the government.

The State, therefore, has to explicitly commit to resolve and end youth homelessness for the absence of a decent home aggravates their condition and hampers total development as well, more specifically, the benefit of accessible quality basic education.

This bill aims to provide assistance and protection to the homeless youth.



EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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AN ACT
PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF THE HOMELESS YOUTH PROVIDING
STRATEGIC ASSISTANCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as "Homeless Youth Assistance Act."

SECTION 2. It is the policy of the State to promote and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well being of the youth recognizing their vital role in nation-building.

SECTION 3. Definitions of Terms.

- (a) Homeless youth - means an individual under 18 years of age who is unable to live in a safe environment with a relative and lacks safe alternative living arrangements, or an individual less than 18 years of age who is without shelter.
- (b) Assistance - means government intervention to ensure living condition in a safe environment under the joint supervision of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Education and the host Local Government Unit
- (c) Joint Supervision - means the coordination and exchange of information among the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Education and the Host Local Government Unit.

SECTION 4. Integrated Accountability Plan. The strategic planning process jointly crafted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Education and the Host Local Government Unit shall take into consideration the following:

- (a) absolute number of needed shelter, housing and supportive services for the homeless youth;
- (b) data and outcome measures from which to evaluate public investment in homeless youth services;
- (c) revenue stream from the local and national government to meet the demand for shelter and services;

- (d) specific role of the child welfare system in preventing and addressing homelessness for minors;
- (e) specific role of law enforcement in responding to the need of homeless youth;

SECTION 5. *Shared Accountability.* In the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Education and the Host Local Government Unit shall open strategic processes of planning and consultation that engage stakeholders, including the Sangguniang Kabataan, Parents Teachers Associations, homeless youth service providers, advocates, and researchers, and representatives of interested government agencies.

SECTION 6. If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,