



**Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City**



FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5554

Introduced by Representative Ranulfo P. Canonigo

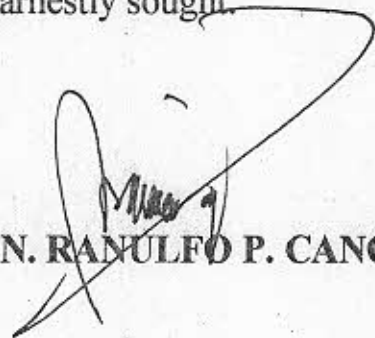
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Reformation is one of the very important purposes of a penal system. Indeed, one cannot consider a penal system effective if reformation of prisoners is something it cannot achieve. Consequently, this brings about the question of having a reformatory prison system; and among the basic approaches to having one is decongestion of prisons, and making more reasonable (hence, realistic) the granting of parole.

This bill seeks to amend Section 5 of Act No. 4103, as amended, otherwise known as the "Indeterminate Sentence Law", by providing for the mandatory grant of parole to prisoners who have served at least one-half of the minimum of their indeterminate sentence not exceeding six (6) years, or said first-time offender prisoners who have served at least ten (10) years of their non-indeterminate sentence, as the case may be. With this noble piece of legislation, the reintegration into society of deserving prisoners is made more reasonably possible to them. And this is attuned to

each and everyone's desire of making ours a humane and genuinely safe society.

Accordingly, passage of the bill is earnestly sought.



HON. RANULFO P. CANONIGO

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 5554

Introduced by the Honorable Ranulfo P. Canonigo

AN ACT
MANDATING THE GRANT OF PAROLE TO FIRST-TIME OFFENDER
PRISONERS WHO HAVE SERVED AT LEAST ONE-HALF OF THE MINIMUM
OF THEIR INDETERMINATE SENTENCE NOT EXCEEDING SIX (6) YEARS,
OR SAID FIRST-TIME OFFENDER PRISONERS WHO HAVE SERVED AT
LEAST TEN (10) YEARS OF THEIR NON-INDETERMINATE SENTENCE,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 5 OF ACT 4103, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE INDETERMINATE SENTENCE LAW

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 5 of Act No. 4103, as amended, otherwise known as the
2 Indeterminate Sentence Law, is further amended to read as follows:
3
4 "SEC. 5. It shall be the duty of the Board of [Indeterminate Sentence]
5 PARDONS AND PAROLE to look into the physical, mental and moral record of
6 the prisoners who shall be eligible [to] FOR parole and to determine the proper
7 time of release of such prisoners. Whenever any prisoner shall have served AT
8 LEAST ONE-HALF OF THE MINIMUM OF HIS OR HER INDETERMINATE
9 SENTENCE NOT EXCEEDING SIX (6) YEARS, OR SAID FIRST-TIME
10 OFFENDER PRISONER HAS SERVED AT LEAST TEN (10) YEARS OF HIS
11 OR HER NON-INDETERMINATE SENTENCE, OR the minimum penalty
12 imposed on him OR HER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, and it shall appear to the
13 Board of [Indeterminate Sentence] PARDONS AND PAROLE, from the reports
14 of the prisoner's work and conduct which may be received in accordance with the
15 rules and regulations prescribed, and from the study and investigation made by
16 the Board itself, that such prisoner is fitted by his training for release, that there is
17 a reasonable probability that such prisoner will live and remain at liberty without
18 violating the law, and that such release will not be incompatible with the welfare
19 of society, said Board of [Indeterminate Sentence] PARDONS AND PAROLE [
20 may, in its discretion] SHALL, and in accordance with the rules and regulations

1 adopted hereunder, authorize the release of such prisoner on parole, upon such
2 terms and conditions as are herein prescribed and as may be prescribed by the
3 Board. The said Board of [Indeterminate Sentence] PARDONS AND PAROLE
4 shall also examine the records and status of prisoners who shall have been
5 convicted of any offense other than those named in Section 2 hereof, and have
6 been sentenced for more than one year by final judgment prior to the date on
7 which this Act shall take effect, and shall make recommendations in all such
8 cases to the [Governor-General] PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES with
9 regard to the parole of such prisoners as they shall deem qualified for parole as
10 herein provided, after they shall have served a period of imprisonment not less
11 than the minimum period for which they might have been sentenced under this
12 Act for the same offense.”

13
14 **SEC. 2.** The rules and regulations necessary to effectively implement this Act
15 shall be promulgated by the Board of Pardons and Parole within (60) days from
16 its effectivity.

17
18 **SEC. 3. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is subsequently
19 declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not
20 affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

21
22 **SEC. 4. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
23 orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts
24 thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act are
25 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

26
27 **SEC. 5. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
28 publication either in the Official Gazette, or in at least two (2) newspapers of
29 general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,