

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Fifteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 5555



Introduced by Honorable **RANULFO P. 'Dodong' CANONIGO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Poor prison conditions and inadequate health services in most prison systems are some of the key factors leading to disease and death in prisons. Prisons cells are most often ill-equipped to provide for the intensive medical and health care of inmates (those serving final judgment) and detainees (those confined in the national penitentiary whose cases are on appeal) with terminal illness, permanent disability and those of old age.

This bill seeks the mandatory release of inmates and detainees who are terminally ill, bedridden and no longer ambulatory, the cripple/amputees and those who are on wheel chairs, the totally blind and those who are sixty years old and above, who have served their sentence for at least five (5) years, inclusive of good conduct time allowance and colonist and other confinement credit to mitigate the harshness of the imprisonment.

Prisoners with terminal illness, those who are bedridden, with permanent disability and are of old age, need to receive the support of family and friends during the extremely distressing period prior to death. Their mandatory release is consistent with the promotion of human rights and based on compassionate grounds, as the offenders no longer pose a risk to society. The eligibility criteria for compassionate release based on the aforementioned conditions will be based on restrictive guidelines, to ensure public security.

The approval of this proposed legislative measure is most earnestly requested.


RANULFO P. CANONIGO

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HOUSE BILL No. 5555

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**AN ACT GRANTING MANDATORY RELEASE TO INMATES AND DETAINEES
WHO ARE TERMINALLY ILL, BEDRIDDEN AND NO LONGER AMBULATORY,
THOSE WHO ARE TOTALLY BLIND AND CRIPPLE AND THOSE WHO ARE SIXTY
YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE FROM PENAL INSTITUTIONS**

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

SECTION 1. Any inmate (those serving final judgment) and detainee (those confined in the national penitentiary whose cases are on appeal) who are terminally ill, bedridden and no longer ambulatory, the cripple/amputees and those who are on wheel chairs, the totally blind and those who are sixty years old and above, who have served their sentence for at least five (5) years, inclusive of good conduct time allowance and colonist and other confinement credits, are hereby mandatorily released from serving their sentence.

Sec. 2. Within sixty days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Justice shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 3. All laws, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, which are contrary to or are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 4. This Act shall take effect after fifteen days from its publication in three national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,