

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
House of Representatives
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 0618



INTRODUCED BY REP. NANCY A. CATAMCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Alcohol and Drug Abuse is our country's most serious national public health problem. The Dangerous Drugs Board estimates that there are 1.6 million addicts and another 1.8 million occasional drug users in the Philippines. Meanwhile, while there are no available statistical data on alcohol abuse, it is inarguably prevalent in our country.

Alcohol and drug abuse affects all sectors of our society, rich and poor and regardless of ethnicity in our country. Not only does it affect the abuser himself, but everyone around him starting from his family, to his community, and ultimately our nation as a whole. Sadly however, alcohol and drug abuse is obviously a heavier burden among the poor owing to the sheer lack of access to rehabilitation and treatment centers.

While there are slowly emerging various privately owned and operated alcohol and drug abuse rehabilitation and treatment centers, they are still scarce and are extremely costly. Private rehabilitation centers, while well meaning and admittedly seek to serve humanitarian purposes, tend to be unreachable to some Filipinos owing to their almost prohibitively expensive fees.

This bill seeks to protect public health, safety and general welfare by mandating the establishment of public alcohol and drug abuse rehabilitation and treatment centers in all regions throughout the country that will cater to needs of Filipinos who are victims of alcohol and drug abuse especially indigent ones.

Immediate approval of this proposed legislation is therefore requested.


NANCY A. CATAMCO

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DRUG ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM REHABILITATION
AND TREATMENT CENTER IN EVERY REGION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, through the Department of Health (DOH) jointly with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), a Drug Abuse and Alcoholism Rehabilitation and Treatment Center in every region in the country.

SECTION 2. The funds necessary for the implementation of this Act, specifically for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the Drug Abuse and Alcoholism Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers shall be included in the General Appropriations Act as part of the annual budget of the Department of Health.

SECTION 3. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days its complete publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.