

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



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3148

Introduced by Rep. CHRISTOPHER S. CO, and Rep. RODEL M. BATOCABE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to repeal Section 11 (a) of Republic Act No. 7835 or National Shelter Program providing that ten percent (10%) of the mandatory annual contributions by the PCSO to the charity fund shall be channelled to socialized and low-cost housing.

Under PCSO's Charter, (Batas Pambasa Blg. 42 as amended by BP 622), PCSO is the principal agency for rising and providing funds for health programs, medical assistance and services, and charities of national character. It holds and conducts charity sweepstakes, races, and lotteries and engages in health and welfare-related investments, projects, and activities to provide for permanent and continuing sources of funds for its programs. It provides for the permanent and continuing sources of funds for health programs, including the expansion of existing ones, medical assistance and services, and/or charitable grants.

In 2012, the National Shelter Program received from PCSO approximately Six Hundred Ninety One Million Pesos (PhP 691,000,000) under the latter's mandatory contributions. The policy and objectives of the National Shelter Program are notable and should properly be supported through government funding as it provides, at affordable cost, decent housing and basic services to underprivileged and homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlement areas.

However, the mandatory contribution of the PCSO in this program, is beyond its mandate and charter. The status of medical and charity services and infrastructure in the Philippines still require improvement and further development. Health care facilities lack medicines, health care professionals, equipment, and infrastructure. Poor households are still not able to access quality outpatient and inpatient care from health care facilities. Rural Health Units and City Health Units, district and provincial hospitals, even DOH-retained regional hospitals and medical centers do not have the necessary provisions to meet the needs of poor families.

PCSO should abide by its original mandate and charter. The funds for mandatory contributions should be redirected towards the improvement and development of the country's health and charity services.

In light of these circumstances, the swift passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. CHRISTOPHER S. CO
Ako Bicol Party-List


Rep. RODEL M. BATOCABE
Ako Bicol Party-List

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AN ACT
ABOLISHING REGULAR MANDATORY CONTRIBUTIONS IMPOSED ON THE PHILIPPINE
CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO), MODIFYING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 11
(a) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7835

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

SECTION 1. *Statement of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to guarantee that the Charity Fund of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) shall achieve its maximum potential to better serve its intended beneficiaries.

SECTION 2. *Abolition of Regular Mandatory Contributions of PCSO.* The mandatory contributions of PCSO as found in Section 11 (a) of Republic Act No. 7835 or "The Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter Financing Act of 1994" described specifically as "Ten percent (10%) of the mandatory annual contributions by Philippine Charity Sweepstakes office to the charity fund as provided for in Section 6 of R.A. No. 1169 shall be channeled to socialized and low-cost housing" is hereinafter abolished.

Section 3. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.