

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7150



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
GRANTING IMMEDIATE COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICE USERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 5
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The passage of Republic Act No. 11036, also known as the Mental Health Act, has paved the way for the Philippines to establish a mental health framework in terms of understanding the mental health struggles of Filipinos and delivering better mental health care to those in need.

However, access to mental health services for the greater population remain limited due to economic constraints. Thus, the government must increase its efforts to enable service users to equitably access appropriate care when needed.

This bill seeks to propose an amendment that ensures service users in need of mental healthcare to receive adequate and immediate compensation benefits and/or any special financial assistance under existing laws should the service user sustain temporary or permanent mental disability while in the performance of duty or by reason of his or her office or position.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

ALFRED VARGAS

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

SECTION 1. *Section 5 of Republic Act No. 11036 otherwise known as the "Mental Health Act", is hereby amended as follows:*

"Section 5. Rights of Service Users. – Service users shall enjoy, on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis, all rights guaranteed by the Constitution as well as those recognized under the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. And all other relevant international and regional human rights conventions and declarations, including the right to:

xxx

"U. IMMEDIATELY RECEIVE COMPENSATION BENEFITS AND/OR ANY SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THAT THE SERVICE USER IS ENTITLED TO UNDER EXISTING LAWS SHOULD THE SERVICE USER SUSTAIN TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT MENTAL DISABILITY WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF DUTY OR BY REASON OF HIS OR HER OFFICE OR POSITION."

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* – Any portion or provision of this Act that is declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions can still subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,