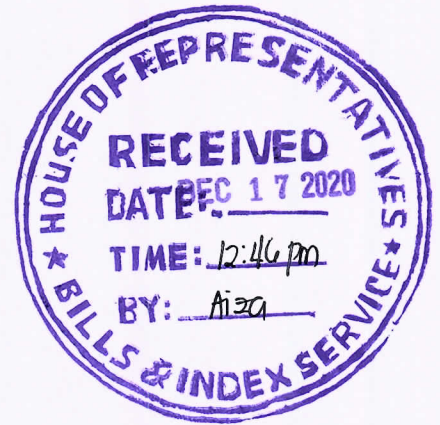




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8279

Introduced by Magsasaka Party-List Representative
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that the rates of poverty, unemployment, and homelessness continue to fluctuate in the past few decades despite various government poverty-reduction interventions. This phenomenon is forcing some of our kababayan, especially those in the poverty line, to resort to mendicancy. This is evident from the children, women, and families crowding our busy streets seeking alms to survive the day.

To help curb this dilemma, Presidential Decree No.1673, also known as the Anti-Mendicancy Law of 1978, prohibiting mendicancy, provided penalties to violators, and laid down government social protection programs for mendicants. The law intends to prevent the commission of mendicancy and protect our children from exploitation. Despite this, the proliferation of mendicancy continues, which is a clear reflection of the government's inability to provide its citizens access to basic social services, such as shelter, potable water, food, and economic opportunities.

However, the blame should not be shouldered by economically and structurally-disadvantaged sectors, often stigmatized as criminals and deviants. Hence, government policies must be recalibrated to resolve poverty as the root cause of mendicancy.

This bill seeks to repeal the Anti-Mendicancy Law of 1978, which aims to decriminalize mendicancy in the country. Ultimately, to retain the protection given to children by existing laws.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT
Magsasaka Party-list



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HOUSE BILL NO. 8279

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ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

AN ACT
REPEALING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1563,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "MENDICANCY LAW OF 1978"

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “*An Act Repealing the*
2 *Mendicancy Law of 1978.*”

3 SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.* – Presidential Decree 1563, entitled “Establishing an
4 Integrated System for the Control and Eradication of Mendicancy, Providing Penalties,
5 Appropriating Funds therefor, and for Other Purposes”, otherwise known as the
6 “Mendicancy Law of 1978” is hereby repealed. Protection given to children by related
7 and existing laws shall remain to be in effect. All laws, decrees, regulations, or issuances
8 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
9 accordingly.

10 SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
11 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national
12 newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,