



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3424



Introduced by Representative
HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The World Health Organization defines mental health as, “a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community.” This does not just cover our emotional ability to cope, but also our psychological, and social well-being that is emphasized in our mental health and wellbeing.

In the Philippines, mental health is becoming an issue of relevance in society. A lot of organizations and groups are prioritizing making mental health services available and affordable.

The goal of this measure is to create mental health centers in every province. Acknowledging that mental health and wellbeing should be promoted, this aims to build centers that would be accessible to every Filipino. This measure also affirms that part of the healthcare priority of the government is also to promote better mental health.

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


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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS
IN EVERY PROVINCE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the “*Mental Health Center Establishment Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State recognizes the need to pursue a Primary Healthcare Approach in the delivery of health services and to conduct the appropriate programs and surveys to ensure that quality healthcare services are made accessible and affordable for everyone.

SEC. 3. *Creation of Mental Health Centers.* — This recognizes the need to make healthcare services, specifically mental health services, readily available. As such, the Department of Health shall establish Mental Health Centers in every province. These centers will be under the supervision of the Department of Health, in collaboration with their respective local government units.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of the Act shall be funded from the current fiscal year’s appropriation for the Department of

Health. Thereafter, the necessary amount for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* — If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, rules, and regulations, presidential decrees, letters of instruction and other presidential issuances which are incompatible or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation. It shall also be published online, through the *Official Gazette Online*, and on the website of the Department of Health.

Approved.