

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10457



Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

AN ACT

DIRECTING EACH CITY, MUNICIPALITY, AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTION TO HIRE OR DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MENTAL HEALTH ACT"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure mandates every city, municipality, and academic institution to hire or designate at least one mental health professional. This ensures easier access to crucial mental health services within local communities and educational settings.

LGUs and academic institutions will create their own tailored programs based on national guidelines, fostering a collaborative approach with the Department of Health and the Philippine Council for Mental Health.

By building upon the existing "Mental Health Act," this Act strengthens the focus on community-based mental healthcare. This increased accessibility will lead to improved overall well-being, early intervention for mental health challenges, reduced stigma surrounding mental health, and ultimately, stronger Filipino communities.

In light of the preceding, this bill's approval is fervently sought.



LORDAN G. SUAN

Cagayan de Oro City – 1st District

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10457**

Introduced by Representative LORDAN G. SUAN

AN ACT

DIRECTING EACH CITY, MUNICIPALITY, AND ACADEMIC INSTITUTION TO HIRE OR DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11036, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “MENTAL HEALTH ACT”

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 the *“One Town, One*
2 *Mental Health Professional Act.”*

3 **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** — The State affirms the basic right of all
4 Filipinos to mental health as well the fundamental rights of people who require
5 mental health services.

6 It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure the overall well-
7 being of every Filipino, including their mental health. The State shall make
8 mental health services more accessible for communities and families in order to
9 effectively and expediently respond to their needs.

10 **SECTION 3. Hiring of One Mental Health Professional Per City,**
11 *Municipality, and Academic Institution.* — Section 15 of Republic Act No. 11036
12 is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 “Section 15. Mental Health Services at the Community Level. –
14 Responsive primary mental health services shall be developed and
15 integrated as part of the basic health services at the appropriate
16 level of care, particularly at the city, municipal, and barangay level.
17 The standards of mental health services shall be determined by the
18 DOH in consultation with stakeholders based on current evidences.

19 “Every local government unit (LGU) and academic institution shall
20 **HIRE OR DESIGNATE AT LEAST ONE (1) MENTAL HEALTH**

1 **PROFESSIONAL AND** create their own program in accordance with
2 the general guidelines set by the Philippine Council for Mental
3 Health, created under this Act, in coordination with other
4 stakeholders. LGUs and academic institutions shall coordinate with
5 all concerned government agencies and the private sector for the
6 implementation of the program.

7 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within sixty (60) days
8 from the approval of this Act, the Department of Health, in coordination with
9 the Philippine Council for Mental Health, the Department of Interior and Local
10 Government, the Department of Education, the Commission on Higher
11 Education, and the Civil Service Commission shall promulgate the guidelines of
12 this Act.

13 **SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** — If any portion or provision of this Act is
14 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not
15 affected thereby shall remain in force and effect..

16 **SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, decrees, orders and rules and
17 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
18 repealed or amended accordingly.

19 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
20 after its publication in the Official Gazette, in a newspaper of general circulation,
21 or on a digital platform provided for by law.

Approved,