

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**19TH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10566



---

**Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero**

---

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The **1987 Constitution** mandates the State to support Human Rights through appropriate technology and research, with adequate financial, and other support services.

After the enactment of the **1987 Philippine Constitution**, which provides for the establishment of a **Commission on Human Rights (CHR)**, EO No. 163 on May 5, 1987, was then ratified creating the Commission on Human Rights.

The **(CHR)** was created as an independent office mandated to investigate complaints of human rights violations, promote the protection of respect for and the enhancement of the people's human rights including civil and political rights.

This House Bill seeks to foster human rights as a protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, eliminating discrimination in all its forms. Obligations and responsibilities of the State to respect, protect, and fulfill the same as cherished in international human rights instruments.

This House Bill also sets a manifestation to the freedom of belief and of expression to be accorded due respect and be allowed to flourish.

Thus, the early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael L. Romero', written over a horizontal dashed line.

**MICHAEL L. ROMERO Ph.D.**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**19TH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10566**

---

**Introduced by Representative Michael L. Romero**

---

AN ACT

PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE **COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (CHR)**, TO FOSTER THE TASK OF PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL, ESPECIALLY THE VULNERABLE, THE DISADVANTAGE, AND THE MARGINALIZED SECTORS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE** — This Act shall be known as the **Commission on Human Rights (CHR) modernization Act of 2024.**

**SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY** — It is a declared policy of the State in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to promote the human rights of all Filipinos. The State also hereby recognizes the complementary roles of the **CHR** and its contributions to the entire country.

The **CHR** derives its mandates from the Constitution, relevant domestic laws, and the core **International Human Rights Instruments** to which the

Philippines is a State Party, as well as other **United Nations Human Rights Conventions** newly enforced.

**Under Section 18, Article XIII of the Philippine Constitution**, the state shall protect civil and political rights of citizens in the Philippines. Based on the Philippine Constitution, the commission has a broad mandate.

For these purposes, the State shall provide the mechanisms to improve awareness and unity by maximizing the use of all existing resources. recognizing in the process the government's responsibility to instill these human rights as having priority over its other functions.

**SECTION 3. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION** – Investigation and case management of complaints of violations, including all the powers and services in aid of investigation, of civil and political rights as well as economic, social, and cultural rights. Such powers and services include;

- a) citing for contempt for violations of its rules of procedure; legal aid and counseling;
- b) visitorial powers over jails and detention facilities;
- c) application of forensic techniques in aid of investigation; witness protection; and, financial assistance to victims.

**SECTION 4. HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION** - Human Rights Promotion, which includes the wide range of strategies for policy, advocacy, promotion, social mobilization, education, training, public information, communication, research, networking and linkage.

**SECTION 5. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY ADVISORY** - derived from monitoring government's compliance with the treaty obligations that the Philippines has acceded to.

**SECTION 6. MODERNIZATION FUNDING.** – The amount of Two Billion Pesos (**Php 2, 000,000,000.00**) for the operation and administration of the **Commission on Human Rights (CHR)** shall be chargeable against funds for the purpose and other sources recommended by the **Department of Budget and Management (DBM)**.

Thereafter, appropriations for the **(CHR)**, shall be included in the budget proposals under the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**

The Department of Budget and Management **(DBM)** shall rationalize the existing organizational structure and staffing pattern of the **(CHR)** in accordance with the prevailing provisions and relevant compensation and position classification laws, rules and regulations.

Thereafter, the amount needed for the continued implementation of the modernization program shall be included in the annual **General Appropriations Act (GAA)**.

**SECTION 7. Commission on Human Rights (CHR) MODERNIZATION FUND** – There is hereby created the **(CHR) Modernization Fund** to be used exclusively for the **(CHR) Modernization** Program.

The **(CHR) Modernization Fund** shall be administered by the Chairperson in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

**SECTION 8. PROGRESS REPORT** – The Chairperson of the **(CHR)** shall prepare an annual report on the status of the implementation of the Modernization Programs which shall be submitted, to the Office of the **President**.

**SECTION 9. INCREASE OF PERSONNEL.** – The **(CHR)** shall maintain a sufficient staffing pattern.

Hence, it is authorized to increase its manpower to meet such required and may continue to increase personnel per percentage rate increase of committed mandates annually or as the need arises.

**SECTION 10. PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION** – The modernization program under this Act shall be implemented for an initial period of three **(3)** years:

*Provided, that* payments for multi-year contract obligations incurred under this Act may extend beyond this period:

*Provided, further,* That the **(CHR)** shall continue to develop, modernize and constantly update its operational capabilities to keep pace with best global practices.

**SECTION 11. SUPERVISING AND ASSESSMENT CONCERNS.** — the **Office of the President**, shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure effective operations and build-up.

**SECTION 12. Preservation of the Filipino Human Rights.** - It is the duty of every citizen to preserve and conserve the Filipino Basic human rights and all its resources. The retrieval and conservation of Filipino human rights and its history shall be vigorously pursued.

**SECTION 13. TRANSITORY PROVISION** – Existing industries, businesses and offices affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six **(6)** months transitory period from the effectivity of the IRR or such other period as may be determined, to comply with the requirements of this Act.

**SECTION 14. PERIODIC REPORTS** - The Chairperson of the **(CHR)** shall submit periodic reports on its findings and make recommendations on actions to be taken by the Office of the President and other appropriate departments, in order to carry out the objectives and mandates of this Act.

**SECTION 15. AUTOMATIC REVIEW** - Every three **(3)** years after the effectivity of this Act, an independent review panel composed of experts to be appointed by the **President of the Republic** shall review the policies and programs in the culture and arts sector and shall make recommendations, based on its findings.

**SECTION 16. PENAL CLAUSE.** – Any person, whether natural or juridical, violating any section of this Act shall, upon conviction, therefore, be liable to a fine of not less than five hundred thousand pesos **(P500,000.00)** or imprisonment for a term not less than six **(6)** years, or both, at the discretion of the court for each and every violation.

In case the violation is committed by a corporation or an association, the penalty shall devolve upon the president, director, or any other officer responsible for such violation.

**SECTION 17. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS.** – The departments and agencies charged with carrying out the provisions of this Act shall, within sixty **(60)** days after the effectivity of this Act, formulate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

**SECTION 18. REPEALING CLAUSE.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 19. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE.** – If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

**SECTION 20. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation whichever comes earlier.

Approved,