Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
E-Filed
RECEIVED
DATE September 9, 2024
TIME 10:20 am
BY Reli
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

House Bill No. **10873**

Introduced by Representative Richard I. Gomez, DPA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The illegal drug trade remains one of the most significant threats to national security, public health, and social stability in the Philippines. The far-reaching impacts of drug abuse include the deterioration of social order, the rise of criminal activities, and the weakening of public trust in government institutions. Despite intensified efforts to curb the proliferation of illegal drugs, seaports continue to be critical entry points for drug traffickers due to the country's vast coastline and archipelagic nature, which makes the monitoring and securing of these points challenging.

The Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 *(Republic Act No. 9165)* laid the groundwork for a coordinated and strategic approach to combat illegal drugs in the Philippines. However, the enforcement of this law, particularly in regions with seaports, has been hampered by the lack of adequate resources at the local level. Seaports are among the most vulnerable points for drug smuggling due to the high volume of goods and the complexity of maritime trade. Without proper monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, these areas become convenient corridors for drug traffickers.

Local Government Units (LGUs) play a crucial role in safeguarding their jurisdictions against illegal activities, including drug trafficking. Being embedded in the communities they serve places them in a unique position to act swiftly and decisively against threats. However, the lack of specialized resources, such as canine (K9) units trained for drug detection, reduces LGUs and law enforcers to less optimal drug detection capacities. Many LGUs, particularly those in rural or underdeveloped regions, do not have the financial or technical capacity to establish such units independently.

This bill seeks to mandate all LGUs with seaports to establish and maintain their own canine teams specifically trained for anti-drug enforcement. These K9 units are proven to be highly

effective in detecting illegal drugs, even in the most concealed locations. The presence of these K9 units will enhance the detection capabilities of LGUs, improve security at seaports, and serve as a strong deterrent to drug traffickers. By intercepting illegal drugs at the point of entry, LGUs can significantly reduce the distribution of these substances within their communities, thereby protecting the health and safety of their constituents.

Moreover, this legislation recognizes the importance of capacity-building at the local level. By providing LGUs with the necessary tools and resources, such as training and certification through the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), this bill ensures that canine teams are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to perform their duties effectively. This initiative also encourages collaboration between national and local government agencies, fostering a more unified and efficient approach to combating illegal drugs.

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

RICHARD I. GOMEZ, DPA

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AN ACT
MANDATING ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS WITH SEAPORTS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN CANINE TEAMS FOR ANTI-DRUG ENFORCEMENT

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 *"LGU Anti-Drug Canine Enforcement Act."*

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the well-being of its citizens by preventing the entry and proliferation of illegal drugs through all means available. To this end, the State recognizes the vital role of Local Government Units (LGUs) in securing seaports and preventing illegal drugs from entering the country.

SEC. 3. *Mandate.* — All LGUs with operational seaports are hereby mandated to establish and maintain their own canine teams specifically trained for anti-drug enforcement. These K9 units shall be deployed at seaports under the jurisdiction of the respective LGUs.

SEC. 4. *Functions of Canine Teams.* — The canine teams established under this Act shall have the following functions:

(a) Conduct regular inspections and monitoring at seaports to detect illegal drugs and other contraband;
(b) Assist law enforcement agencies in anti-drug operations within seaports;
(c) Serve as a deterrent to drug trafficking activities; and
(d) Provide support in the implementation of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002," and other related laws.

SEC. 5. *Training and Certification.* — The canine teams shall undergo rigorous training and certification conducted by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) or other accredited institutions. The training shall include drug detection, handler training, and other necessary skills to ensure the effectiveness of the K9 units.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* — The funds necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the canine teams shall be sourced from the annual National Tax Allotment (NTA) of the respective LGUs, as well as from other available funds or grants. The national government, through the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), may also provide additional financial assistance to LGUs in need.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The DILG, in coordination with PDEA, and the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,