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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No. 11479

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree (PD) No. 1619, enacted in 1979, primarily focuses on regulating the use of volatile substances, commonly referred to as "solvent abuse," and outlines penalties for individuals involved in the illegal manufacture, distribution, and use of these substances. The decree was a significant move toward curbing the abuse of volatile substances, which pose severe health risks and contribute to social problems, including addiction, violence, and even death. However, as the landscape of substance abuse has evolved over the decades, there is a growing need to revisit and increase the penalties for the unlawful activities associated with volatile substances.

The penalties prescribed in the law are no longer commensurate to current times. Since the enactment of PD 1619, inflation and changes in the economic landscape have significantly diminished the deterrent effect of existing penalties. The monetary fines and sentences that were once substantial are now less impactful due to the changing value of money. Updating and increasing the penalties in PD 1619 will ensure that the law remains an effective tool in addressing the issue of volatile substance abuse, in line with contemporary economic realities.

By increasing penalties, the government can send a clear message that volatile substance abuse will not be tolerated and that stronger actions will be taken to safeguard public health and welfare.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.

RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ

NINETEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez

House Bill No.11479

AN ACT
AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1619, ENTITLED "PENALIZING THE USE OR POSSESSION OR THE UNAUTHORIZED SALE TO MINORS OF VOLATILE SUBSTANCES FOR THE PURPOSE OF INDUCING INTOXICATION OR IN ANY MANNER CHANGING, DISTORTING OR DISTURBING THE AUDITORY, VISUAL OR MENTAL PROCESS" BY INCREASING THE FINES AND PENALTIES PRESCRIBED BY THE LAW

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of PD 1619 is hereby amended to read as follows:

> Section 2. The use or possession of volatile substances for the purpose of inhalation to induce or produce intoxication or any of the conditions described in the preceding section shall be punishable by imprisonment ranging from **[**six months and one day to four years**]** **THREE YEARS TO SIX YEARS** and a fine ranging from **[**six hundred to four thousand, pesos**]** **TEN THOUSAND TO TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS**: Provided, however, That the provisions of Article VI, entitled "Rehabilitative Confinement and Suspension of Sentence", of Republic Act No. 6425, as amended (otherwise known as the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972), shall, whenever appropriate, apply to the cases arising hereunder.

SEC 2. Section 3 of PD 1619 is hereby amended to read as follows:

> Section 3. The penalty of imprisonment ranging from **[**four years and one day to eight years**]** **SIX YEARS AND ONE DAY TO TWELVE YEARS** and a fine ranging from **[**four thousand to eight thousand pesos**]** **TWENTY THOUSAND TO FORTY THOUSAND** shall be imposed upon any person who sells, administers, delivers, or gives away to another, on any terms whatsoever, or distributes, dispatches in transit or transports or who acts as a broker in any of such transactions, any substance or mixture of substances containing one or more of the chemical compounds mentioned in Section one hereof for the purpose of inhalation to induce or produce intoxication or any of the conditions described therein.

SEC 3. Section 4 of PD 1619 is hereby amended to read as follows:

> Section 4. The penalty of imprisonment ranging from **[**four years and one month to eight years**]** **SIX YEARS AND ONE DAY TO TWELVE YEARS** and a fine ranging from **[**four thousand to eight thousand pesos**]** **TWENTY THOUSAND TO FORTY THOUSAND** shall be imposed upon any person, or group of persons who shall maintain a den, dive or resort where any

substance or mixture of substances containing one or more of the chemical compounds mentioned in Section one hereof is used for the purpose of inhalation to induce or produce intoxication or any of the conditions described therein.

SEC 4. Section 5 of PD 1619 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. The sale of, and offer to sell, volatile substances to minors without requiring the written consent of their parents or guardians as a condition for such sale or offer to sell shall be punishable by imprisonment ranging from **[**six months and one day to four years**]** **THREE YEARS TO SIX YEARS** and a fine ranging from **[**six hundred to four thousand pesos**]** **TEN THOUSAND TO TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS**: Provided, That when the minor is eighteen years or over and is duly licensed to drive a motor vehicle, such written consent shall not be necessary when the volatile substance sold or offered for sale is gasoline or any other motive fuel for motor vehicles.

SEC 5. Section 6 of PD 1619 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6. The sale of, and offer to sell, to minors of liquors or beverages containing an alcoholic content of thirty per centum or above (60 proof or above) is hereby prohibited and shall be punishable by imprisonment ranging from **[**six months and one day to four years**]** **THREE YEARS TO SIX YEARS** and a fine ranging from **[**six hundred to four thousand pesos**]** **TEN THOUSAND TO TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS**.

SEC 6. All laws, decrees, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,