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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 728**



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**Introduced by Representative Antolin A. Oreta III**

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**AND LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY FOR REHABILITATED DRUG**  
**DEPENDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Rehabilitated drug dependents often struggle to reintegrate into society due to limited access to education and livelihood opportunities. Without adequate support, they remain vulnerable to social exclusion and economic instability.

This bill mandates the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), to provide technical-vocational education and training (TVET) and livelihood programs intended for rehabilitated drug dependents. It also encourages private sector participation by offering incentives to employers who hire individuals who have completed the training.

By institutionalizing access to employable skills and livelihood support, this measure affirms the State's commitment to rehabilitation through reintegration, and advances inclusive and restorative approaches to national development.

This bill was approved by the House of Representatives in the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress and was duly transmitted to the Senate. This is refiled in the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress under the same considerations for which it was previously approved.

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

  
**REP. ANTOLIN A. ORETA III**  
*Lone District of Malabon City*

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

1       **SECTION 1.** The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in  
2 coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), shall institutionalize the provision  
3 of technical-vocational education and training (TVET) and livelihood programs designed specifically for  
4 rehabilitated drug dependents. The TVET and livelihood programs shall focus on competitive and  
5 employable skills that can be acquired and developed by rehabilitated drug dependents to further enhance  
6 their ability to find gainful employment and entrepreneurial livelihood opportunities.

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8       The DOLE shall provide incentives to companies which shall employ rehabilitated drug  
9 dependents who have undergone the TVET and livelihood programs mandated under this Act.

10  
11       **SEC. 2.** The Director General of TESDA shall immediately include in the Authority's programs  
12 the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
13 Appropriations Act.

14  
15       **SEC. 3.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA shall, in coordination  
16 with the DOLE, formulate the rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

17  
18       **SEC. 4.** All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instructions, rules  
19 or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

20  
21       **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or  
22 in a newspaper of general circulation.

23  
24       *Approved,*