



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1541



Introduced by **Representative Francisco “Lalo” T. Matugas**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the duty of the State to ensure a justice system that is fair, effective, and accessible. In this regard, the proper management of correctional and detention facilities plays a crucial role in safeguarding the rights and welfare of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) and in upholding the rule of law.

Currently, provincial jails fall under the jurisdiction of local government units (LGUs), specifically the provincial governments. While this arrangement aligns with the policy of local autonomy, it has also led to a range of challenges and inconsistencies in the management of detention facilities across the country. These include disparities in the quality of jail facilities, uneven implementation of policies, lack of trained personnel, inadequate funding, and limited access to rehabilitation programs.

On the other hand, the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) which supervises city, municipal, and district jails, has developed standardized systems for jail operations, staff training, inmate welfare and development, and security procedures. Transferring the jurisdiction of provincial jails to the BJMP would ensure a more professional, uniform, and accountable jail management system nationwide.

This bill seeks to centralize the management of all provincial jails under the BJMP. Doing so will enhance operational efficiency, ensure better living conditions for PDLs, and promote the delivery of rehabilitation and reintegration programs. It will also relieve provincial governments of the financial and administrative burden of managing jails, allowing them to focus on other essential services.

This bill was filed by the undersigned during the 15th and 16th Congresses and by Hon. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II during the 17th, 18th and 19th Congresses.

In support of penal reform and in the interest of justice, human rights, and good governance, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lalo' with a stylized 'T' or 'M' at the end.

FRANCISCO “LALO” T. MATUGAS

Representative

First District, Surigao del Norte



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AN ACT
TRANSFERRING THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER
PROVINCIAL JAILS FROM THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
TO THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “DEPARTMENT OF THE
INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990”

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 61, Chapter V of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby
2 amended to read as follows:

3 “SEC. 61. Powers and Functions - The Jail Bureau shall exercise
4 supervision and control over all PROVINCIAL, city and municipal jails.
5 [The provincial jails shall be supervised and controlled by the provincial
6 government within its jurisdiction, whose expenses shall be subsidized
7 by the National Government for not more than three (3) years after the
8 affectivity of this Act].”

9 SEC 2. Section 62, Chapter V of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended to
10 read as follows:

11 “SEC 62. Organization. - The Jail Bureau shall be headed by
12 Chief who shall be assisted by a deputy chief.



1 The jail Bureau shall be composed of PROVINCIAL, city and
2 municipal jails, each headed by a [city or municipal] jail warden:
3 *Provided, That, in the case of large cities and municipalities, a district*

1 jail with subordinate jails headed by a district jail warden may be
2 established as necessary.

3 The Chief of the Jail Bureau shall recommend to the Secretary
4 the organizational structure and staffing pattern of the Bureau as well
5 as the disciplinary machinery for officers and men of the Bureau in
6 accordance with the guidelines set forth herein and as prescribed in
7 Section 85 of this Act.”

8 SEC. 3. Section 63, Chapter V of Republic Act No. 6975 is hereby amended to
9 read as follows:

10 “Section 63. Establishment of PROVINCIAL, District, City or
11 Municipal Jail. - There shall be established and maintained in every
12 PROVINCE, district, city and municipality, a secured, clean, adequately
13 equipped and sanitary jail for the custody and safekeeping of
14 PROVINCIAL, city and municipal prisoners, any fugitive from justice,
15 or person detained awaiting investigation or trial and/or transfer to the
16 national penitentiary, and/or violent mentally ill person who endangers
17 himself or the safety of others, duly certified as such by the proper
18 medical or health officer, pending the transfer to a medical institution.

19 "The PROVINCIAL, municipal or city jail service shall
20 preferably be headed by a graduate of a four (4) year course in
21 psychology, psychiatry, sociology, nursing, social work or criminology
22 who shall assist in the immediate rehabilitation of individuals or
23 detention of prisoners. Great care must be exercised so that the human
24 rights of these prisoners are respected and protected, and their spiritual
25 and physical well-being are properly and promptly attended to.”

26 SEC. 4. All laws, decrees, executive orders and other presidential issuances
27 which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, or modified accordingly.

28 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
29 Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

30 Approved,