

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. 3066



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Introduced by: Congressman **BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING DANGEROUS DRUGS COURTS, GRANTING THEM**  
**EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER DANGEROUS DRUGS**  
**OFFENSES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE**  
**“COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002”, APPROPRIATING**  
**FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The pieces of evidence, both testimonial and documentary, so far presented in the course of the investigations being conducted by the QUAD COM of this Congress have revealed the depth the illegal drugs trade has permeated our society, bringing untold sufferings to our people, especially the youth and enormous damage and destruction to our nation's human assets and resources. Worst, these investigations continue to unearth the sad reality that there are high government officials and members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) that have emerged protectors or as principal actors, either by direct participation, indispensable cooperation, or by inducement, emboldening these evil elements of society to continue with impunity in their illegal and immoral trade, all because of the love of money which is the root of all evil (*1 Timothy 6:10*) and wanton disregard to and making a mockery of the Constitutional injunction on honesty and integrity in the public service (*Sec. 27, Art. II, Constitution*) and the Constitutional mandate that public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives (*Sec. 1, Art. XI, Constitution*), thus the urgent need for legislative measures to help address this evil through a better, more efficient, more effective, and honest justice system.

The honest, efficient, effective, and speedy prosecution and resolution of illegal drugs cases, as well as the prompt execution of judgments imposed, could deliver a strong message to drug lords and illegal drugs manufacturers, traffickers, and pushers, to stop their detestable trade. Due to the alarming drug menace in our country, public policy and public interest demand that criminal cases involving

violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act should be exclusively heard and decided by the Special Drugs Court.

This Bill which is in line with the State Principles that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy (*Sec. 5, Art. II, Constitution*), seeks to establish a special court, to be called the Dangerous Drugs Court, to exclusively hear and decide unlawful acts defined and penalized under Article II of R.A. No. 9165, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002", regardless of the quantity of illegal drugs involved.

In view hereof, the early approval of this bill is earnestly requested.



**BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known as the **“Dangerous Drug Court Act of 2025.”**

**SEC. 2. Statement of National Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to ensure the security, public order, health, and safety of citizens in keeping with the constitution's declaration that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy. Towards this end, the State shall provide a system to ensure the speedy trial and adjudication of illegal drug cases.

**SEC. 3. Establishment of Dangerous Drug Court.** - There shall be established a Dangerous Drug Court (DDC) in every province and city in the country. In cases where the city is the capital of the province, the Dangerous Drug Court shall be established in the municipality that has the highest population.

**SEC. 4. Qualification and Training of Dangerous Drug Court Judges.** –

(a) No person shall be appointed Presiding Judge of a DDC unless he or she is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines, at least thirty-five (35) years of age, and for at least ten (10) years has been engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines or has held a public office in the Philippines requiring admission to the practice of law as indispensable requisite.

(b) The presiding judge of a DDC as well as the court personnel thereof must have experience and demonstrated ability in dealing with dangerous drugs cases and

shall undergo continuing education and training on dangerous drugs laws, procedure, discipline, and prosecution of dangerous drugs cases under a program to be provided and administered by the Supreme Court with the coordination of the Philippine Drugs Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ).

**SEC. 5. *Jurisdiction of Dangerous Drug Court.*** - The DDC shall have exclusive original jurisdiction to hear and decide cases involving unlawful acts defined and penalized under Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, or the “Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002”, including the issuance of warrants of arrest and search warrants in connection with such cases, except in extremely urgent cases and for compelling reasons such as the absence of the presiding judge of the DDC that has territorial jurisdiction of the place where the warrant is to be enforced, in which case the presiding judge of any Regional Trial Court branch within such territorial jurisdiction may issue such warrant.

**SEC. 6. *Authority to define territory appurtenant to each branch.*** - The Supreme Court shall define the territory over which a branch of the Dangerous Drug Court shall exercise its authority. The territory thus defined shall be deemed to be the territorial area of the branch concerned for purposes of determining the venue of all suits, proceedings, or actions involving unlawful acts defined and penalized under Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, or the “Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002”, including applications and issuance of Warrants of Arrest and Search Warrants in connection with such unlawful acts. The power herein granted shall be exercised with a view to making the courts readily accessible to the people of the different parts of the region and making the attendance of litigants and witnesses as inexpensive as possible.

**SEC. 7. *Inventory.*** - The judges of all branches of the DDC shall make a monthly inventory of all cases filed and pending before them, as well as those decided within the month. The inventory shall indicate the case number; name of the accused, date the information was filed; date the accused was arraigned; and the status of each case, *i.e.*, whether it is for arraignment, pre-trial, trial, or decision. Copies of the inventory shall be furnished to the Office of the Chief Justice (OCJ), the Office of the Court Administrator (OCA), the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB).

**SEC. 8. *Mandatory Continuous Trial.*** - The drug cases referred to herein shall undergo mandatory continuous trial and shall be terminated within sixty (60) days from commencement of the trial. Judgment thereon shall be rendered within thirty (30) days from submission of the case for decision unless a shorter period is provided by law or otherwise directed by the Supreme Court.

No postponements or continuances shall be allowed except for meritorious reasons. Pleadings or motions found to have been filed for dilatory purposes shall not be entertained and shall constitute direct contempt, and the lawyer and/or party filing the same shall be punished accordingly.

In the event of the inhibition of the judge of a DDC branch, the inhibiting judge shall immediately furnish the OCJ and the OCA a copy of his Order of Inhibition in order that another judge can be designated by the Supreme Court to preside over that branch.

In case of temporary incapacity, absence, or disability of a judge of a DDC branch, the Clerk of Court of such branch shall immediately notify the OCJ and the OCA of such temporary incapacity, absence, or disability and the Supreme Court shall take the necessary steps as it may determine appropriate in order not to delay the disposition of the cases before that concerned branch.

**SEC. 9. *Staffing pattern.*** – The Supreme Court shall determine the staffing pattern of DDCs for the honest, effective, and efficient implementation of the objectives of this Act, which shall be incorporated in the implementing rules and regulations that shall be promulgated.

**SEC. 10. *Prosecution and Prosecutors.*** – For honest, efficient, effective, speedy, and successful prosecution of unlawful acts defined and penalized under the Comprehensive Dangerous Act, the DOJ shall select and assign prosecutors trained in handling dangerous drugs cases to conduct preliminary investigation and/or handle the prosecution thereof.

The Secretary of Justice or his duly designated representative shall monitor the status of such cases, whether under preliminary investigation or trial, as well as the performance of the assigned prosecutor.

If honest, efficient, effective, speedy, and/or successful resolution or prosecution of such cases is required, whether in the preliminary investigation or trial stage, the Secretary of Justice shall replace an erring prosecutor and assign another who satisfies the above criteria.

The preliminary investigation involving unlawful acts defined and penalized under Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, or the “Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002”, shall be terminated and resolved within a period of not more than thirty (30) days from the filing thereof.

During the preliminary investigation, no postponements shall be allowed except for meritorious reasons. Motions for postponement found to have been filed for dilatory purposes shall be considered a waiver of the right to present affidavits or counter-affidavits, or of the right to present additional evidence, as the case may be, and shall constitute direct contempt, and the lawyer and/or party filing the same shall be punished accordingly.

**SEC. 11. *Appeals.*** - Decisions and orders of the Dangerous Drug Court shall be appealable in the same manner and subject to the same requirements of appeals from decisions and orders of the present Regional Trial Court.

**SEC. 12. *Use of Income.*** - All Dangerous Drug Courts shall be allowed to use not more than ten percent (10%) of their income derived from filing and other court fees under Rule 141 of the Revised Rules of Court, for research and other operating expenses, including capital outlay: Provided, that this benefit shall likewise be enjoyed by all courts of justice. The Supreme Court shall promulgate the necessary guidelines to effectively implement the provisions of this Section.

**SEC. 13. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act for the year following the effectivity of this Act.

**SEC. 14. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Supreme Court, in coordination with the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the Department of Justice (DOJ), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective and efficient implementation of this Act.

**SEC. 15. *Transitory Provisions.*** - Pending the establishment of the Dangerous Drug Courts, dangerous drugs cases shall continue to be handled by the branches of the Regional Trial Court designated as special courts for drugs cases by the Supreme Court per its Resolution in A.M. No. 00-8-01-SC dated August 1, 2000. Thereafter, the Supreme Court shall promulgate rules of procedure for the transfer of cases to the Dangerous Drug Courts. Upon the establishment of the DDCs, all information for unlawful acts defined and penalized under Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, or the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002", shall forthwith be filed with the branch of the DDC that has territorial jurisdiction over the place where the act charged or an element thereof was committed. In the event that the act complained of or an element thereof was committed within the territorial jurisdiction of two branches of the DDC, the branch where the Information was filed shall retain the jurisdiction to try and decide the case.

**SEC. 16. *Separability Clause.*** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 17. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 18. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved.*