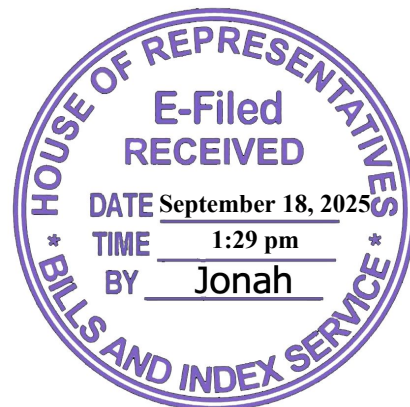




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4699



Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

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

Substance use and addiction, aside from being criminalized, is also associated to the social and moral decay of an individual, a stigma deeply embedded within the country against persons who use drugs¹. Such stigma, when deeply rooted and perpetuated over time, leads to discrimination, prejudice, and negative consequences such as shame and reluctance to seek help.

In order to overcome these negative stereotypes, it is important that the State is able to provide measures that would reintegrate these individuals into the

¹ (2023, August 2). *Statement of the Commission on Human Rights in support of proposed measure seeking to institutionalize TESDA training for rehabilitated drug dependents*. Commission on Human Rights. Retrieved September 1, 2025, from <https://chr.gov.ph/2023/statements/press-statement/statement-of-the-commission-on-human-rights-in-support-of-proposed-measure-seeking-to-institutionalize-tesda-training-for-rehabilitated-drug-dependents/>

mainstream society, not only by focusing on their rehabilitation, but also through investing in their self-development and self-reliance.

Thus, this bill seeks to institutionalize the provision of Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and livelihood programs designed specifically for rehabilitated drug dependents. The programs shall enable drug dependents to enhance their ability to find gainful employment or pursue entrepreneurial livelihood opportunities.

This measure was filed by Representatives Bascug, Plaza and Paduano during the 19th Congress where it was approved by the House on third and final reading.

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



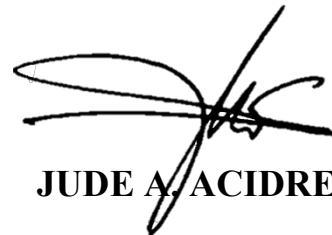
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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

SECTION 1. The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), shall institutionalize the provision of technical-vocational education and training (TVET) and livelihood programs designed specifically for rehabilitated drug dependents. The TVET and livelihood programs shall focus on competitive and employable skills that can be acquired and developed by rehabilitated drug

dependents to further enhance their ability to find gainful employment and entrepreneurial livelihood opportunities.

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

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

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

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

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

Approved,