



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

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5190



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

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**AN ACT**  
**INSTITUTIONALIZING SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM AND**  
**PROVIDING JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO INMATES IN DETENTION**  
**FACILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The latest data from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology shows that as of September 30, 2022, 131,311 persons are currently sentence and detained in its 477 facilities. More than 90 percent of the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) population have ages between 18 to 59 years old. This is in addition to the 49,515 PDLs in the Bureau of Corrections' prisons and prison farms, as of September 2022.

While there are several non-government organizations that offer free vocational and livelihood assistance to PDLs, there is a need for the institutionalization of these vocational skills training and livelihood programs to cater to these inmates, to such extent that they may be empowered to be

productive members of society upon their release from imprisonment. For this reason, the proposed measure seeks to institutionalize a skills training program for inmates in the Philippines through the joint effort of the various government agencies, e.g., Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Justice (DOJ). The creation of a livelihood assistance program i.e., job matching and livelihood creation, is also designed to aid ex-PDLs who would like to start their life anew.

A similar bill was filed in the 18th Congress by Rep. Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" Villanueva, and the present proponent is acknowledging the wisdom and hard work of his predecessors.

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



**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:*

**CHAPTER 1**  
**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Skills Training for Inmates".

**SEC. 2. *Institutionalization of Skills Training Program for Inmates.*** – The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Justice (DOJ) shall establish skills training program for all inmates in the Philippines. In addition, a Job Search and Livelihood Assistance Desk shall

be established inside prisons to help ex-offenders create sustainable employment once they are released from prison.

**SECTION 3. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be sourced from the current budgets of TESDA, DepEd, DOLE and DOJ. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA, DepEd, DOLE and DOJ, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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

Approved,