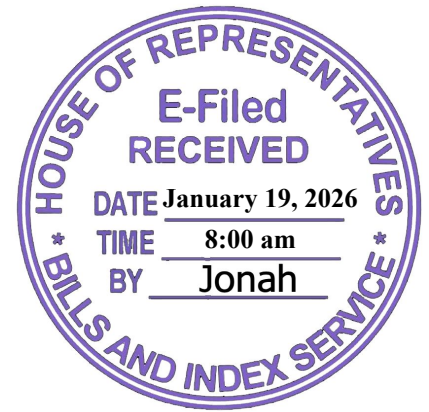




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7150

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution reminds us that every person possesses inherent dignity and is entitled to the full respect of their rights. Yet, in our correctional and detention facilities, many Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) still have very limited access to programs that could help them rebuild their lives. Without meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration, many of them fall back into the same cycles of poverty, exclusion, and recidivism.

Data from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) reveal that there were 115,065 PDLs in BJMP jail facilities as of July 31, 2025.¹ These render a 292% average congestion rate in all 486 BJMP jails nationwide.² On the other hand, as of January 31, 2025, there were 54,820 PDLs in prisons and penal farms managed by the Bureau of Corrections.³ This translates to a prison congestion rate of 248% in seven (7) prison facilities under the Bureau of Corrections.

These figures not only speak of agony, hardship and struggle. These numbers also represent the enormous challenge of carrying the state mandate of reforming and rehabilitating those individuals who have transgressed the law in the past. To restore these inmates back into the society and to their lives, the government has incorporated vocational programs into the job assignments of inmates in most correctional facilities.

This bill seeks to institutionalize this practice by mandating the establishment of a skills training program for inmates in all correctional facilities in the Philippines. The implementation of the Program shall be spearheaded by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Justice (DOJ). In

¹ BJMP Actual Jail Population Data. Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. Available at <https://bjmp.gov.ph/data-and-statistics/>. Accessed on January 12, 2026.

² *Ibid.*

³ PDL Profile. Bureau of Corrections. Available at <https://bucor.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/PDL-Profile-as-of-Jan2025-02132025.pdf>. Accessed on January 12, 2026.

addition, skills advancement or training inside prison will be matched with job search and livelihood assistance to help ex-inmates find a living once outside of prison.

Indeed, transition services, especially technical vocational education and training (TVET), can improve the self-esteem of inmates and the prospect of them rehabilitated to a new chance of life. With employable skills, PDLs can find new life when they leave detention, never to get back in jail. Tech-Voc training will also bring new hope to the offenders because they know they have the skills that can be their passport to employment opportunities once they leave confinement. Aside from these, tech-voc training will also aid in breaking the cycle of recidivism of certain prisoners.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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HOUSE BILL NO. 7150

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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

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as "*Kabuhayan for Offenders*
2 *through Skills Advancement (KOSA) Act.*"
3

4 **SEC. 2. Establishment of Skills Training Program for Persons Deprived of**
5 **Liberty (PDLs).** - The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA),
6 Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE),
7 Department of Justice (DOJ) and its relevant agencies, such as the Bureau of
8 Corrections, and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), including
9 the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), shall establish skills training
10 programs for all PDLs in the Philippines.
11

12 In addition, a Job Search and Livelihood Assistance Desk shall be established
13 inside prisons to help ex-offenders create sustainable employment once they are
14 released from prison.
15

16 **SEC. 3. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this
17 Act shall be sourced from the current budgets of TESDA, DepEd, DOLE, DOJ, and
18 DILG. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act
19 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
20

21 **SEC. 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty (60) days after
22 the effectivity of this Act, the TESDA, DepEd, DOLE, DOJ, BuCor, DILG, and BJMP,
23 in consultation with relevant stakeholders, shall issue the necessary rules and
24 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
25

1 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
3

4 *Approved,*