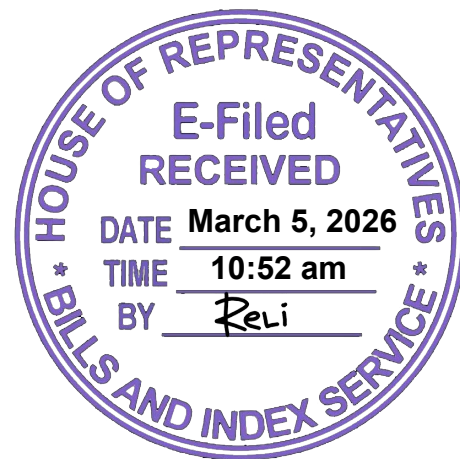


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8296



Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This legislative measure seeks to institutionalize a skills training program for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) through TESDA Training Programs. It seeks to institutionalize training programs to ensure that all PDLs are afforded meaningful opportunities for rehabilitation, capacity-building and productive reintegration upon completion of their time in custody.

In 2023, TESDA formalized its partnership with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) through a Memorandum of Agreement entitled "*Rehabilitation and Re-Integration through Skills Development*." The agreement clarifies the respective roles and responsibilities of both agencies, establishes coordination and implementation mechanisms and serves as the policy framework for the systematic delivery of skills training, competency assessment, and certification for persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), consistent with existing rules and guidelines. As of 2025, a total of 15,838 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) have graduated from TESDA programs implemented in partnership with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

The latest data from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) has reported that as of July 31, 2025, there is a total detainee population of 115,065 persons, comprising both detainees and sentenced individuals. Given the current state of the world and the Philippines, securing employment is crucial. One of the challenges of PDLs after their release is the difficulty in securing employment opportunities. The existence of their criminal record serves as a barrier hindering their effective reintegration into society. PDLs who have fully served their sentence should not be subjected to continued punishment beyond imprisonment. It would be inhumane and contrary to the principles of rehabilitation and reintegration if they remain socially excluded.

This legislative measure seeks to institutionalize and expand TESDA skills training programs in all jails and prisons nationwide, in coordination with the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), Bureau of Jail Management (BJMP) and local government units. The proposed bill also aims to ensure adequate funding, facilities and certification mechanisms to uplift the lives of PDLs and improve public safety.

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



Ryan S. Recto
Representative
6th District, Batangas

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8296

Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING A SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM AND PROVIDING
JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDLs) IN
DETENTION FACILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the
2 “*Institutionalization of Skills Training for Persons Deprived of Liberty (IS-PDL).*”
3

4 Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to uphold the
5 principles of the Constitution, ensuring that no one, regardless of their social status,
6 is denied their right to education and gainful employment.
7

8 The State, by exercising its authority, shall employ appropriate actions in
9 ensuring that education is made accessible to all. All persons deprived of liberty, whose
10 fundamental rights are not deemed extinguished, shall be afforded access to
11 education, wherein, the period of service of their sentence shall not be regarded as a
12 punishment but rather, a time for rehabilitation and reintegration into society.
13

14 Sec. 3. *Institutionalization of Skills Training Program for PDLs. (IS-PDL)* – The
15 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with
16 the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), the Bureau of Corrections
17 (BuCor) and Local Government Units (LGUs) shall establish and maintain regular,
18 accessible and accredited technical-vocation education and skills training programs
19 within jails and detention centers nationwide.
20

21 TESDA, in coordination with the DOLE, shall institutionalize the provision of
22 technical-vocational education and training (TVET) and livelihood programs designed
23 specifically for rehabilitated drug dependents to further enhance their ability to find
24 gainful employment and entrepreneurial livelihood opportunities.
25

1 Sec. 4. *Scope and Coverage.* – This Act shall apply to all national, regional,
2 provincial, city and municipal detention and correctional facilities under the jurisdiction
3 of the BuCor and BJMP.
4

5 Sec. 5. *Livelihood Manufacturing Hubs.* – The Department of Trade and
6 Industry (DTI), in partnership with the BuCor and BJMP, shall facilitate the
7 establishment of livelihood manufacturing hubs within the vicinity of detention
8 facilities. These hubs shall allow PDLs to produce goods or provide services for
9 government agencies or private partners, with the income earned being placed in a
10 trust account for the PDL's family or for use upon their release.
11

12 Sec. 6. *Reintegration and Job Placement Program.* – The Department of Labor
13 and Employment (DOLE) shall create a "Public Employment Service Office (PESO) PDL
14 Desk" to assist PDLs who are nearing their release date. The desk shall provide career
15 counseling and job matching, referrals to former PDL-friendly employers and
16 assistance in securing necessary pre-employment documents.
17

18 Sec. 7. *Incentives for Private Sector Participation.* – Private entities that employ
19 former PDLs for at least one (1) year shall be entitled to an additional deduction from
20 their gross income, equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount paid as
21 salaries and wages to such employees, subject to the rules and regulations of the
22 Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).
23

24 Sec. 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
25 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the BuCor,
26 BJMP, TESDA, and DOLE. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued
27 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).
28

29 Sec. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the
30 effectivity of this Act, the TESDA shall, in coordination with the DOLE, formulate the
31 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
32

33 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If for any reason, any part or provision of this
34 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not
35 affected shall remain in full force and effect.
36

37 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
38 rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
39 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
40

41 SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
42 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of national circulation.
43

44 *Approved,*