

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8941



Introduced by: HON. BAMBI B. EMANO

AN ACT
MANDATING THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT
TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND
LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS FOR REHABILITATED DRUG
DEPENDENTS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Substance use and addiction are commonly treated as criminal concerns, but they are also closely linked to deep-rooted social stigma and moral judgment. In the Philippines, individuals who have used drugs are often subjected to prejudice and discrimination, even after they have successfully completed rehabilitation programs. This persistent stigma discourages reintegration, undermines self-worth, and frequently prevents rehabilitated individuals from seeking employment or rebuilding productive lives.

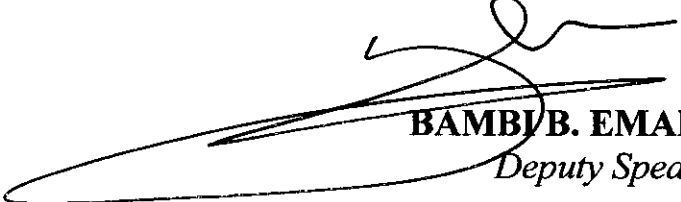
When negative stereotypes are reinforced over time, they give rise to social exclusion, shame, and limited access to economic opportunities. These barriers significantly increase the risk of relapse and hinder the long-term success of rehabilitation efforts. Addressing substance dependence therefore requires not only treatment and recovery programs, but also concrete mechanisms that enable rehabilitated individuals to regain dignity, independence, and social acceptance.

One of the most effective means of reintegration is access to skills training and sustainable livelihood opportunities. By equipping rehabilitated drug dependents with employable and competitive skills, the State can empower them to secure gainful employment or engage in lawful entrepreneurial activities. Skills development promotes self-reliance, restores confidence, and reduces vulnerability to returning to harmful behaviors.

This measure seeks to institutionalize the provision of **Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** and livelihood programs specifically tailored for rehabilitated drug dependents. These programs shall be designed and implemented by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), to ensure alignment with labor market needs and employment opportunities.

This bill was previously filed during the Nineteenth Congress and was approved by the House of Representatives on Third and Final Reading, demonstrating strong legislative support for a rehabilitation framework grounded in skills development and economic inclusion.

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



BAMBI B. EMANO
Deputy Speaker

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Reintegration Act for Rehabilitated Drug Dependents.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the full rehabilitation, reintegration, and productive participation of rehabilitated drug dependents in society. Recognizing recovery as a continuing process, the State shall support access to education, skills development, employment, and sustainable livelihood opportunities, reduce stigma and discrimination, and enable rehabilitated drug dependents to become self-reliant, economically productive, and law-abiding members of the community through institutionalized technical-vocational education and livelihood programs responsive to labor market needs.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(a) **Rehabilitated Drug Dependent** refers to a person who has undergone and completed a drug rehabilitation program certified by a duly authorized government or private rehabilitation center, and who is deemed fit for reintegration into society

(b) **Technical-Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** refers to education, training, and skills development programs provided by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) designed to equip individuals with employable and market-relevant competencies

(c) **Livelihood Programs** refer to income-generating, entrepreneurial, or self-employment activities supported through skills training, mentoring, and other forms of assistance under this Act

(d) **Post-Training Support** refers to assistance provided to program graduates, including employment facilitation, apprenticeships, entrepreneurship mentoring, access to starter tools, and referral to existing government livelihood and financing programs

(e) **Industry Partnerships** refer to cooperative arrangements between government agencies and private sector entities for the purpose of training, apprenticeship, job placement, or employment of rehabilitated drug dependents.

SEC. 4. Institutionalization of TVET and Livelihood Programs for Rehabilitated Drug Dependents. — 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 specifically designed for rehabilitated drug dependents.

The TVET and livelihood programs shall focus on competitive, market-driven, and employable skills that may be acquired and developed by rehabilitated drug dependents to enhance their capacity to obtain gainful employment or pursue lawful entrepreneurial livelihood opportunities.

The DOLE shall provide appropriate incentives, in accordance with existing laws and policies, to private sector entities and employers that hire rehabilitated drug dependents who have completed the TVET and livelihood programs under this Act.

SEC. 5. Program Integration and Funding. — The Director General of TESDA shall immediately integrate the implementation of this Act into the Authority's regular programs. The funding requirements necessary for the execution of this Act shall be included in TESDA's annual budget and provided for in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Industry Partnerships and Apprenticeship Programs. — TESDA, in coordination with the DOLE, shall establish partnerships with industry

associations, employers, training institutions, and other relevant stakeholders to provide apprenticeship, on-the-job training, internship, and job placement opportunities for rehabilitated drug dependents who complete the programs under this Act.

Such partnerships shall be aligned with labor market demand, priority industries, and local employment needs.

SEC. 7. Post-Training Employment and Livelihood Support. — Graduates of the TVET and livelihood programs under this Act may be provided with post-training assistance, including but not limited to employment facilitation, entrepreneurship mentoring, access to starter toolkits, and referral to existing government livelihood, microfinance, and enterprise development programs, subject to applicable laws and regulations.

SEC. 8. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting. — TESDA, in coordination with the DOLE, shall develop a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the effectiveness of the programs under this Act. Such framework shall include indicators on skills certification, employment placement, livelihood sustainability, and program completion rates.

A consolidated annual report on program implementation and outcomes shall be submitted to Congress.

SEC. 9. Coordination with Rehabilitation and Aftercare Services. — The implementation of this Act shall be harmonized with existing government rehabilitation, recovery, and aftercare programs to ensure continuity of support for rehabilitated drug dependents and to reduce the risk of relapse.

SEC. 10. Information and Advocacy Campaign. — TESDA and DOLE, in coordination with relevant government agencies, shall undertake information and advocacy initiatives to promote public awareness of the employability, productivity, and social value of rehabilitated drug dependents, and to encourage private sector participation in the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 11. Repealing Clause. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, rules and regulations, or other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act or the application thereof is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,