

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10125



Introduced by HON. PHILIP CONRAD "DOK BONG" M. ACOP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HOLISTIC
REINTEGRATION PROGRAM FOR PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY
(PDLs), CREATING THE NATIONAL REINTEGRATION COMMISSION,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Grounded in the principle that rehabilitation is a core pillar of criminal justice, the bill seeks to establish an integrated, multi-dimensional reintegration program. Its primary objective is to uphold the human dignity of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) by addressing their psychological, educational, and economic needs, thereby facilitating their successful transition back into mainstream society and effectively reducing recidivism.

At the heart of the proposed legislation is the institutionalization of the National Holistic Reintegration Framework. This mandatory program is designed to commence at least twelve months prior to a PDL's projected release and operates on four foundational pillars. First, it mandates psychological and emotional healing through trauma-informed counseling, restorative justice circles, and family reconciliation modules. Second, it prioritizes education and skill development by offering alternative learning systems and market-aligned technical-vocational training. Third, it guarantees legal support and civic re-enfranchisement, ensuring PDLs receive free assistance in securing vital post-release identity documents and legal aid for clearing employment barriers. Finally, it facilitates economic transition through supervised pre-release work programs and guaranteed job placement assistance.

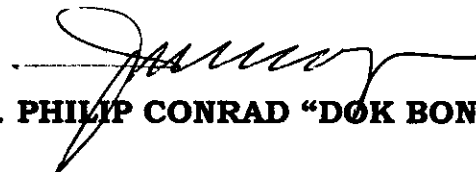
To ensure the seamless execution of these initiatives, the bill mandates the creation of robust institutional mechanisms. It establishes the National Reintegration Commission (NRC), co-chaired by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), to oversee the standardized implementation of the framework across all detention centers. Furthermore, the legislation requires every province and

highly urbanized city to build at least one Reintegration Halfway House. These centers are tasked with providing up to six months of temporary housing, psychosocial counseling, and job-placement assistance for newly released individuals who lack a stable living environment.

Recognizing that successful reintegration requires the active participation of the broader community, the bill introduces measures to incentivize private and public sector support while protecting former PDLs from stigma. Private employers who hire reformed PDLs will be entitled to an additional tax deduction equal to fifteen percent of the wages paid to these individuals. Meanwhile, government agencies are directed to practice social procurement by prioritizing goods produced within correctional livelihood programs. Crucially, the bill includes a strict anti-discrimination clause, making it unlawful for employers to deny jobs to qualified applicants solely based on their prior incarceration, provided the offense does not directly impair their job performance or pose a verifiable safety risk.

The proposed bill outlines a comprehensive legislative blueprint that shifts the focus of the penal system from punitive confinement to restorative justice. By providing structured preparation before release and continuous support thereafter, the State aims to break the cycle of reoffending and empower former PDLs to rebuild their lives as productive, dignified members of society.

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



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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 “*Holistic Reintegration for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) Act.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote the human rights, dignity, and total well-being of every individual, including those within the correctional system. The State recognizes that rehabilitation is a core pillar of criminal justice. To this end, the State shall provide an integrated, continuous, and multi-dimensional reintegration program that addresses the psychological, educational, vocational, economic, and social needs of PDLs to facilitate their successful transition back into mainstream society and reduce recidivism.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- a. *Person Deprived of Liberty (PDL)* refers to any individual confined in a jail, prison, or correctional facility under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), or provincial government units.
- b. *Holistic Reintegration* refers to a comprehensive process of preparing and supporting a PDL before, during, and after release through coordinated mental health care, education, livelihood training, family reconciliation, and post-release tracking.
- c. *Recidivism* refers to the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend or return to a correctional facility after release.

SEC. 4. Institutionalization of the Holistic Reintegration Framework. – There is hereby established a mandatory National Holistic Reintegration Framework which shall be implemented in all correctional facilities. The program shall begin at least twelve (12) months prior to a PDL's projected release date, or immediately upon entry for those serving shorter sentences.

The framework shall consist of four (4) core pillars:

a. Psychological and Emotional Healing

- i. Mandatory trauma-informed counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy, and substance abuse rehabilitation.
- ii. Restorative justice circles aimed at emotional reconciliation with victims and the community.
- iii. Family counseling modules to rebuild broken support systems prior to release

b. Education and Skill Development

- i. Accredited formal education through alternative learning systems and tertiary-level extension programs within facilities.
- ii. Technical-vocational training aligned with real-world market demands, certified by relevant government vocational boards.
- iii. Financial literacy, basic digital skills, and entrepreneurship training.

c. Legal Support and Civic Re-enfranchisement

- i. Assistance in securing post-release identity documents (e.g., birth certificates, government IDs, clearances) free of charge.
- ii. Legal aid for the swift processing of certificate of discharge, parole clearances, or the expungement/clearing of records for qualified offenses to eliminate employment barriers.

d. Economic and Livelihood Transition

- i. The establishment of a "Pre-Release Transition Work Program" allowing low-risk PDLs to engage in supervised employment or agricultural production.
- ii. Guaranteed placement assistance through job fairs and partnerships with cooperative networks.

SEC. 5. *Creation of the National Reintegration Commission (NRC).* – To ensure smooth inter-agency coordination, the National Reintegration Commission (NRC) is hereby created. The Commission shall be co-chaired by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), with inter-agency composition including the departments overseeing Social Welfare, Labor, Technical Education, and Mental Health, alongside accredited Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) specializing in penal reform.

The NRC shall have the following duties:

- a. Oversee the standardized implementation of the Reintegration Framework across all national, provincial, and local detention centers.
- b. Formulate and maintain a secure, unified Post-Release Referral System to connect released individuals with local government social workers and localized employment opportunities.
- c. Certify private corporations and civil society organizations participating in the reintegration incentives program.

SEC. 6. *Post-Release Halfway Houses and Community Support Centers.* – Every province and highly urbanized city shall establish at least one (1) Reintegration Halfway House. These centers shall provide temporary housing (not exceeding six months), psychosocial counseling, and job-placement assistance for newly released individuals who lack immediate family support or a stable living environment.

SEC. 7. *Incentives for Private Sector Participation.* – To encourage private sector involvement in the employment and economic absorption of former PDLs:

- a. Tax Incentives: Private entities that employ former PDLs who have completed the Reintegration Program shall be entitled to an additional tax deduction from their gross income equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the total amount paid as wages to these employees.
- b. Social Procurement: Government agencies shall give preference to goods, crafts, or agricultural produce manufactured or farmed within correctional livelihood programs or by certified cooperatives composed of reformed individuals.

SEC. 8. *Anti-Discrimination Clause.* – It shall be unlawful for any employer, public or private, to deny employment to a qualified applicant solely on the basis of their status as a formerly incarcerated individual, unless the nature of the prior offense directly impairs the applicant's capacity to perform the specific duties of the job, or presents a verifiable safety risk to the public or workplace.

SEC. 9. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOJ, DILG, and partnering agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continuous operation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOJ, DILG, and relevant stakeholders shall jointly promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this measure.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,