



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

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10904



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution upholds the inherent dignity of every person and calls on the State to advance the common good. Within corrections, this means imprisonment should not merely isolate individuals from society. Instead, it should open doors to genuine reform, learning, skill-building, and real preparation for a return to lawful life.

Republic Act No. 10575, otherwise known as the “*Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013*,” was signed into law on 24 May 2013 and provided for the modernization, professionalization, and restructuring of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor). The law expressly mandates the Bureau to institute reformation programs for national inmates and identifies, among others, education and training, work and livelihood, and behavior modification as components of reformation. It likewise directs the Bureau to prepare inmates for reintegration into mainstream society and assigns responsibility for pre-release and post-release programs to its external relations function.

Our laws already value education, training, work, and reintegration. The challenge now is to weave these elements into a purposeful, personalized, and ongoing journey that guides each person toward a brighter life beyond incarceration.

Currently, a person deprived of liberty can join various educational, vocational, livelihood, and rehabilitation activities while in custody. Yet, these efforts often stand alone, with no clear bridge connecting new skills or knowledge to real jobs, further studies, or a concrete plan for life after release.

This measure aims to build that missing bridge.

The proposed Pre-Release Education, Upskilling, Employment and Higher Education Preparatory Program shall direct the Bureau of Corrections to prepare qualified PDLs for reintegration well before their possible release. The Bureau shall assess each participating PDL’s educational attainment, competencies, skills, aptitude, interests, and career or educational goals. Based on the results of this assessment, the Bureau shall develop an Individual Reintegration Plan

for each PDL to guide their education, skills development, employment, or higher education pathway.

The proposed system is intended to create a clear pathway: Assessment → Education → Skills Development → Certification → Career Preparation → Higher Education or Employment Pathway → Pre-Release Referral → Post-Release Support.

The measure further promotes coordination among the Bureau of Corrections, the Department of Labor and Employment, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Education, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Information and Communications Technology, local government units, educational institutions, employers, industry organizations, and other stakeholders.

Such coordination is necessary because successful reintegration cannot be accomplished by the correctional institution alone. Education belongs to the wider educational system, skills development requires industry and technical-vocational institutions; employment requires employers and labor institutions, and higher education requires colleges and universities.

The proposed law also establishes an Employment and Higher Education Transition Registry, subject to the Data Privacy Act and other applicable safeguards. Its purpose is not to stigmatize PDLs but to ensure that legitimate educational achievements, certifications, skills, and career pathways are not lost when an individual transitions from confinement to the community.

Importantly, the measure does not create an automatic right to release. Completion of the program shall not substitute for the legal requirements governing parole, pardon, commutation, good conduct time allowance, court-ordered release, or other forms of lawful release. Rather, the measure makes sure that when a PDL becomes legally eligible or is otherwise due for release, that individual is better prepared to return to society.

The fundamental premise of this measure is simple: Our people are our strength.

A person deprived of liberty still holds the power to learn, grow, contribute, and transform. When the State invests in their education and skills, it does more than uplift one life. It fortifies families, breaks down barriers to honest work, opens doors to successful reintegration, and helps build safer, more vibrant communities. Rehabilitation should not end with release from confinement, but with true readiness to take on the responsibilities of life in society.

This bill envisions turning incarceration into a time of preparation, and release into a real turning point, one that leads to education, employment, dignity, and meaningful citizenship.

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



KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI

1 capabilities, and productive potential of PDLs strengthens families, communities, the economy,
2 and public safety.

3 Towards this end, the State shall strengthen the existing reformation and reintegration
4 mandate of the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) by establishing a structured and individualized
5 preparatory program that shall assist qualified PDLs in pursuing:

- 6 a) basic, secondary, technical-vocational, and continuing education;
- 7 b) higher education, subject to applicable admission and academic requirements;
- 8 c) industry-recognized technical and vocational skills;
- 9 d) professional, digital, entrepreneurial, and other employable competencies;
- 10 e) employment, apprenticeship, internship, livelihood, and enterprise opportunities; and
- 11 f) post-release educational and employment reintegration.

12 The State further recognizes that preparation for release should begin sufficiently in
13 advance of a PDL's possible release and should be based upon the individual's abilities, educational
14 attainment, interests, skills, rehabilitation progress, and realistic employment or educational
15 opportunities.

16 SEC. 3. *Amendment of Republic Act No. 10575.* - Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10575,
17 otherwise known as the "Bureau of Corrections Act of 2013," is hereby amended by adding a new
18 paragraph (7) under subsection (b), to read as follows:

19 **“(7) PRE-RELEASE EDUCATION, UPSKILLING, EMPLOYMENT AND**
20 **HIGHER EDUCATION PREPARATORY PROGRAM. – THE BUREAU SHALL**
21 **ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A PRE-RELEASE EDUCATION, UPSKILLING,**
22 **EMPLOYMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION PREPARATORY PROGRAM FOR**
23 **QUALIFIED PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY (PDLs), DESIGNED TO PREPARE**
24 **THEM FOR LAWFUL, PRODUCTIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE REINTEGRATION INTO**
25 **SOCIETY UPON RELEASE.**

“THE PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO:

**“(A) EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION OF
EDUCATIONAL GAPS;**

**“(B) LITERACY, NUMERACY, DIGITAL LITERACY, AND OTHER
FOUNDATIONAL EDUCATION;**

**“(C) TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING IN
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA);**

**“(D) CAREER ASSESSMENT, OCCUPATIONAL PROFILING, SKILLS
CERTIFICATION, AND COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT;**

**“(E) PREPARATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE IN
MEETING ADMISSION, SCHOLARSHIP, DOCUMENTARY, ACADEMIC, AND
OTHER REQUIREMENTS;**

**“(F) COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION
INSTITUTIONS, SUBJECT TO THEIR ADMISSION POLICIES AND APPLICABLE
LAWS;**

**“(G) EMPLOYMENT READINESS PROGRAMS, INCLUDING RESUME
PREPARATION, JOB APPLICATION, INTERVIEW PREPARATION, WORKPLACE
CONDUCT, FINANCIAL LITERACY, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP;**

**“(H) INDUSTRY IMMERSION, APPRENTICESHIP, INTERNSHIP, ON-THE-JOB
TRAINING, JOB MATCHING, AND OTHER LAWFUL WORK-READINESS
ACTIVITIES, SUBJECT TO SECURITY REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAWS;**

1 “(I) ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LIVELIHOOD PREPARATION, INCLUDING
2 BUSINESS PLANNING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT;

3 “(J) RECOGNITION AND DOCUMENTATION OF COMPETENCIES,
4 CERTIFICATIONS, EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS, AND TRAINING
5 COMPLETED DURING CONFINEMENT;

6 “(K) PRE-RELEASE REFERRAL AND PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR
7 EMPLOYMENT, HIGHER EDUCATION, LIVELIHOOD, APPRENTICESHIP, OR
8 OTHER PRODUCTIVE OPPORTUNITIES; AND

9 “(L) POST-RELEASE FOLLOW-UP AND REINTEGRATION SUPPORT, IN
10 COORDINATION WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL
11 GOVERNMENT UNITS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, EMPLOYERS, CIVIL
12 SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.”

13 SEC. 4. *Insertion of a New Section 5-A.* - Republic Act No. 10575 is hereby amended by
14 inserting a new Section 5-A immediately after Section 5 thereof, to read as follows:

15 “SEC. 5-A. PRE-RELEASE EDUCATION, UPSKILLING, EMPLOYMENT AND
16 HIGHER EDUCATION PREPARATORY PROGRAM.

17 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT. – THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS SHALL
18 ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A COMPREHENSIVE PRE-RELEASE EDUCATION,
19 UPSKILLING, EMPLOYMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION PREPARATORY
20 PROGRAM, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE ‘PROGRAM,’ IN ALL
21 APPROPRIATE PRISONS AND PENAL FARMS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

22 “(B) INDIVIDUAL REINTEGRATION PLAN. – EACH PDL WHO IS
23 REASONABLY DETERMINED TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR POSSIBLE RELEASE, OR
24 WHOSE RELEASE MAY REASONABLY BE ANTICIPATED UNDER APPLICABLE

**LAW, SHALL, SUBJECT TO SECURITY, MEDICAL, LEGAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL
CONSIDERATIONS, BE ASSESSED FOR PURPOSES OF DEVELOPING AN
INDIVIDUAL REINTEGRATION PLAN (IRP).**

“THE IRP SHALL IDENTIFY, AS APPROPRIATE:

“(1) EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND LEARNING NEEDS;

**“(2) EXISTING TECHNICAL, VOCATIONAL, PROFESSIONAL, AND OTHER
COMPETENCIES;**

“(3) SKILLS AND COMPETENCY GAPS;

“(4) INTERESTS, APTITUDES, AND CAREER PREFERENCES;

**“(5) APPROPRIATE EDUCATION, TRAINING, CERTIFICATION,
EMPLOYMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, OR HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS;**

**“(6) DOCUMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THE IDENTIFIED
PATHWAY;**

**“(7) AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS, TRAINING ASSISTANCE, EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES, APPRENTICESHIPS, OR LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS; AND**

**“(8) PRE-RELEASE AND POST-RELEASE INTERVENTIONS NECESSARY TO
FACILITATE SUCCESSFUL REINTEGRATION.**

**“(C) EARLY INTERVENTION. – THE BUREAU SHALL ENDEAVOR TO
COMMENCE EDUCATIONAL, SKILLS, AND CAREER ASSESSMENT AND
PREPARATION AS EARLY AS PRACTICABLE DURING THE PDL'S PERIOD OF
CONFINEMENT, WITH INTENSIFIED PREPARATION AS THE PDL APPROACHES
POSSIBLE RELEASE.**

“(D) INDIVIDUALIZED PATHWAYS. – THE PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED PATHWAYS ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PDL, WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

- “(1) EDUCATION COMPLETION;**
- “(2) TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND NATIONAL CERTIFICATION;**
- “(3) HIGHER EDUCATION;**
- “(4) PROFESSIONAL OR SPECIALIZED TRAINING;**
- “(5) EMPLOYMENT AND JOB PLACEMENT;**
- “(6) APPRENTICESHIP, INTERNSHIP, OR ON-THE-JOB TRAINING;**
- “(7) ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LIVELIHOOD;**
- “(8) DIGITAL AND EMERGING-INDUSTRY SKILLS; AND**
- “(9) OTHER LAWFUL PROGRAMS THAT FACILITATE PRODUCTIVE REINTEGRATION.**

“(E) RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING AND SKILLS. – THE BUREAU SHALL ESTABLISH MECHANISMS, IN COORDINATION WITH APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS, FOR DOCUMENTING AND, WHERE LEGALLY AND INSTITUTIONALLY PERMISSIBLE, RECOGNIZING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS, COMPETENCIES, WORK EXPERIENCE, TRAINING, CERTIFICATIONS, AND OTHER SKILLS ACQUIRED BY PDLs BEFORE AND DURING CONFINEMENT.

“(F) PRE-RELEASE READINESS ASSESSMENT. – BEFORE RELEASE, SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE LAW AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, THE BUREAU

1 SHALL ASSESS THE READINESS OF THE PDL FOR REINTEGRATION, INCLUDING
2 THE STATUS OF THE PDL'S EDUCATION OR TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT OR
3 HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAY, REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION, AND AVAILABLE
4 SUPPORT SYSTEMS.

5 “(G) REFERRAL AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES. – THE BUREAU SHALL
6 ESTABLISH A REFERRAL AND CASE-MANAGEMENT MECHANISM TO ENSURE,
7 TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE, CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION,
8 TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT, LIVELIHOOD, OR HIGHER EDUCATION SERVICES
9 AFTER RELEASE.

10 “(H) NO GUARANTEE OF RELEASE. – PARTICIPATION IN OR SUCCESSFUL
11 COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM SHALL NOT, BY ITSELF, CONSTITUTE A
12 GROUND FOR RELEASE, PAROLE, PARDON, COMMUTATION, OR ANY OTHER
13 FORM OF REDUCTION OR MODIFICATION OF SENTENCE. ANY RELEASE SHALL
14 REMAIN GOVERNED BY THE CONSTITUTION, APPLICABLE LAWS, RULES,
15 REGULATIONS, COURT ORDERS, AND LAWFUL DECISIONS OF THE COMPETENT
16 AUTHORITIES.

17 “(I) NON-DISCRIMINATION. – ACCESS TO THE PROGRAM SHALL BE
18 PROVIDED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX, AGE,
19 DISABILITY, RELIGION, ETHNICITY, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, OR OTHER
20 STATUS PROTECTED BY LAW, SUBJECT TO LEGITIMATE SECURITY, MEDICAL,
21 LEGAL, AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.

22 “(J) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN EMPLOYMENT OR HIGHER
23 EDUCATION PATHWAYS. – NO PDL SHALL BE COMPELLED TO ACCEPT A
24 PARTICULAR EDUCATIONAL COURSE, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, HIGHER
25 EDUCATION PROGRAM, OR LIVELIHOOD ACTIVITY. PARTICIPATION SHALL, AS

**FAR AS PRACTICABLE, BE BASED ON INFORMED CHOICE, APTITUDE,
QUALIFICATIONS, AND THE AVAILABILITY OF LAWFUL OPPORTUNITIES.”**

SEC. 5. *Inter-Agency and Private Sector Partnerships.* - Republic Act No. 10575 is hereby amended by inserting a new Section 5-B after Section 5-A, to read as follows:

“SEC. 5-B. INTER-AGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS.

**“THE BUREAU SHALL ESTABLISH FORMAL PARTNERSHIPS AND
REFERRAL MECHANISMS WITH RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,
EMPLOYERS, INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND OTHER QUALIFIED ENTITIES FOR THE
EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

**“WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OTHER AGENCIES THAT MAY BE IDENTIFIED
BY THE BUREAU, THE PROGRAM SHALL, AS APPROPRIATE, BE IMPLEMENTED
IN COORDINATION WITH:**

“(A) THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ);

“(B) THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE);

**“(C) THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY (TESDA);**

“(D) THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED);

“(E) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED);

**“(F) THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
(DSWD);**

“(G) THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI);

1 “(H) THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
2 TECHNOLOGY (DICT);

3 “(I) THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICES (PESO) OF LOCAL
4 GOVERNMENT UNITS;

5 “(J) THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLE (BPP);

6 “(K) THE PAROLE AND PROBATION ADMINISTRATION (PPA), WHERE
7 APPLICABLE; AND

8 “(L) OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND QUALIFIED PUBLIC OR
9 PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

10 “SUCH PARTNERSHIPS MAY INCLUDE SCHOLARSHIPS, TUITION
11 ASSISTANCE, SKILLS TRAINING, COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT, CERTIFICATION,
12 EDUCATIONAL PLACEMENT, CAREER COUNSELING, EMPLOYMENT
13 MATCHING, APPRENTICESHIPS, INTERNSHIPS, LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE,
14 ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT, AND POST-RELEASE MONITORING AND
15 SUPPORT.

16 “THE BUREAU MAY ENTER INTO MEMORANDA OF AGREEMENT,
17 MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS
18 FOR PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THIS SECTION, SUBJECT TO EXISTING
19 LAWS, AUDITING RULES, PROCUREMENT LAWS, AND APPLICABLE
20 GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS.”

21 SEC. 6. *Employment and Higher Education Transition Registry.* - Republic Act No.
22 10575 is hereby amended by inserting a new Section 5-C after Section 5-B, to read as follows:

23 “SEC. 5-C. EMPLOYMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSITION
24 REGISTRY.

1 **“THE BUREAU SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN APPROPRIATE**
2 **EMPLOYMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION TRANSITION REGISTRY FOR PDLs**
3 **PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM.**

4 **“THE REGISTRY SHALL CONTAIN, SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE PRIVACY**
5 **AND DATA-PROTECTION LAWS, RELEVANT INFORMATION NECESSARY TO**
6 **FACILITATE LAWFUL REFERRAL AND PLACEMENT, INCLUDING:**

7 **“(A) EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT;**

8 **“(B) COMPLETED EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS;**

9 **“(C) CERTIFICATIONS AND COMPETENCIES;**

10 **“(D) EMPLOYMENT-RELATED SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS;**

11 **“(E) IDENTIFIED EDUCATIONAL OR CAREER PATHWAY;**

12 **“(F) EMPLOYMENT OR HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR**
13 **WHICH THE PDL MAY QUALIFY; AND**

14 **“(G) STATUS OF REFERRALS, APPLICATIONS, PLACEMENTS, OR**
15 **ENROLLMENTS.**

16 **“THE REGISTRY SHALL BE USED SOLELY FOR LEGITIMATE**
17 **CORRECTIONAL, EDUCATIONAL, EMPLOYMENT, REINTEGRATION, AND**
18 **RELATED GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE**
19 **PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘DATA**
20 **PRIVACY ACT OF 2012,’ AND OTHER APPLICABLE LAWS.**

21 **“THE BUREAU SHALL ADOPT APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT**
22 **UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE, MISUSE, DISCRIMINATION, OR**
23 **STIGMATIZATION OF PDL INFORMATION.”**

1 SEC. 7. *Assignment of Program Personnel.* - Republic Act No. 10575 is hereby amended
2 by adding a new subsection to Section 5 to read as follows:

- 3 “(a) Xxx.
- 4 (b) Xxx.
- 5 (c) Xxx.
- 6 (d) Xxx.
- 7 (e) Xxx.
- 8 (f) Xxx.
- 9 (g) Xxx.

10 **(H) THE BUREAU SHALL DESIGNATE QUALIFIED REFORMATION AND**
11 **REINTEGRATION PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION,**
12 **COORDINATION, MONITORING, AND DOCUMENTATION OF THE PRE-RELEASE**
13 **EDUCATION, UPSKILLING, EMPLOYMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION**
14 **PREPARATORY PROGRAM AND THE INDIVIDUAL REINTEGRATION PLANS OF**
15 **PARTICIPATING PDLS.**

16 **“THE BUREAU SHALL ENSURE THAT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE**
17 **PROGRAM RECEIVE APPROPRIATE TRAINING IN CAREER GUIDANCE,**
18 **EDUCATION AND TRAINING PATHWAYS, EMPLOYMENT FACILITATION, CASE**
19 **MANAGEMENT, REINTEGRATION PLANNING, AND OTHER COMPETENCIES**
20 **NECESSARY FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.”**

21 SEC. 8. *Program Standards and Implementing Rules.* – Within one hundred eighty (180)
22 days from the effectivity of this Act, the Bureau of Corrections, in coordination with the
23 Department of Justice and the relevant agencies identified under Section 5-B of Republic Act No.

1 10575, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of
2 this Act.

3 The implementing rules shall establish, among others:

- 4 (a) eligibility and prioritization criteria;
- 5 (b) assessment and Individual Reintegration Plan procedures;
- 6 (c) minimum program standards;
- 7 (d) education and training pathways;
- 8 (e) employment and higher education referral mechanisms;
- 9 (f) standards for public-private partnerships;
- 10 (g) data-sharing and privacy safeguards;
- 11 (h) monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- 12 (i) post-release follow-up mechanisms; and
- 13 (j) reporting and accountability requirements.

14 SEC. 9. **Monitoring and Evaluation.** - The Bureau shall establish measurable indicators to
15 assess the effectiveness of the Program, including, as applicable:

- 16 (a) number of PDLs assessed;
- 17 (b) number with completed Individual Reintegration Plans;
- 18 (c) number completing basic, secondary, technical-vocational, or higher education;
- 19 (d) number obtaining skills certifications or other recognized credentials;
- 20 (e) number referred to employment or livelihood opportunities;
- 21 (f) number enrolled in higher education after release;

1 (g) number placed in employment or livelihood activities after release;

2 (h) retention in employment or education; and

3 (i) other indicators of successful reintegration.

4 The Bureau shall submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of the Senate and
5 the House of Representatives on the implementation, accomplishments, challenges, and outcomes
6 of the Program.

7 SEC. 10. **Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
8 Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Bureau of Corrections and other
9 participating agencies, subject to existing budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws and
10 regulations.

11 Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act
12 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13 The Bureau may receive grants, donations, endowments, and other forms of assistance
14 from domestic or foreign sources, subject to existing laws, rules, regulations, and safeguards on
15 public funds and donations.

16 SEC. 11. **Rule of Construction.** – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as:

17 a) diminishing the authority of courts, the Board of Pardons and Parole, or other
18 competent authorities with respect to the release, parole, pardon, commutation, or
19 modification of sentences;

20 b) creating an automatic right to release, employment, admission to a particular
21 educational institution, scholarship, or government benefit; or

22 c) exempting any PDL from applicable admission, licensing, certification,
23 employment, security, or other legal requirements.

1 The Program shall instead complement existing rehabilitation, education, skills training,
2 parole, probation, employment, and reintegration mechanisms.

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

5 SEC. 13. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, regulations, and
6 other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
7 amended, or modified accordingly.

8 SEC. 14. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
9 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

10 ***Approved,***