

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 1543



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVES ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr. and
ELIZALDY S. CO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide additional funding for Accessible Drug Rehabilitation Treatment nationwide, to be sourced from the proceeds of Republic Act 10351.

The Duterte Administration's intensified anti-drug campaign to combat drug addiction and drug related problems in the country is gaining great traction, resulting in tens of thousands of alleged drug addicts and pushers surrendering to police authorities. In fact, as of July 15, 2016, major news media has reported that 65,000 drug pushers and users have surrendered.

With this deluge of surrenders, the critical question that needs to be asked is, "What happens to these self-confessed drug users?"

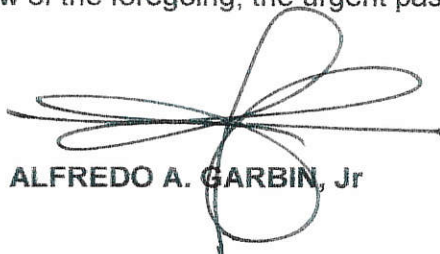
Drug addiction is a medical condition and is often accompanied by several health and psychological illnesses. This condition is not immediately cured after a drug user admits that he or she is an addict. So, unless we condemn these drug users to jail, we cannot simply list their names and let them return home only to be lured by the addiction once more.


What is required is an extensive drug rehabilitation treatment so that the drug addict's body is cleansed of addictive dangerous drugs and ultimately restored to an upright contributing member of our country. Needless to say, rehabilitation requires financial resources, treatment facilities and human capital. There are currently 41 drug rehabilitation centers in the country, which is insufficient to cover rehabilitation of the more or less 65,000 drug addicts.

Our government needs to provide accessible drug rehabilitation treatment program and set up affordable drug rehabilitation centers all over the country. Costs for drug rehabilitation is shouldered primarily by DOH budget, but this is not enough.

We propose allocating a portion of the incremental revenue from Sin Tax to be used for drug rehabilitation treatment. Using rough estimates, if one drug user can be rehabilitated in 6 months, at a cost of 10,000 per month, it will require around 4 billion pesos to rehabilitate the 65,000 drug addicts who have, so far, surrendered. This is a small price to pay to win the war on drugs and rehabilitating our citizens who have fallen victim to drug abuse. This is a small price to pay, if we want to win the war on drugs without killing or jailing drug addicts.

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


ALFREDO A. GARBIN, Jr


ELIZALDY S. CO

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1 **AN ACT ALLOCATING A PORTION OF EXCISE TAX ON ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO FOR**
2 **THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF STATE-RUN DRUG REHABILITATION**
3 **CENTERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 10351**
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress*
6 *assembled:*
7

8 SECTION 1. *Short Title* – This Act shall be known as the “*Sin Tax Revenue for Drug*
9 *Rehabilitation Centers Act*”
10

11 SECTION 2. Section 8 of RA 10351, amending Section 288, subsections (B) and (C) of the
12 National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended by Republic Act No. 9334, is hereby
13 further amended to read as follows:
14

15 x x x
16

17 **“(C) Incremental Revenues from the Excise Tax on Alcohol and Tobacco**
18 **Products. –**
19

20 **“After deducting the allocations under Republic Act Nos. 7171 and 8240,**
21 **seventy percent (70%) of the remaining balance of the incremental revenue**
22 **derived from this Act shall be allocated for the universal health care under**
23 **the National Health Insurance Program, the attainment of the millennium**
24 **development goals and health awareness programs; and thirty percent**
25 **(30%) shall be allocated nationwide, based on political and district**
26 **subdivisions, for medical assistance, accessible drug rehabilitation**
27 **treatment and health enhancement facilities program, the annual**
28 **requirements of which shall be determined by the Department of Health**
29 **(DOH).”**
30
31

32 SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or
33 parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
34 accordingly.
35

36 SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
37 Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
38

39 Approved,