

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4639

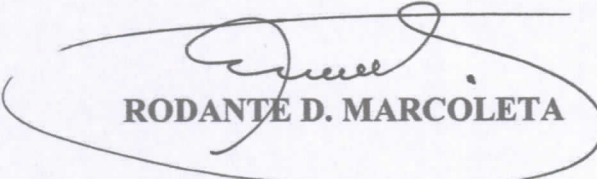
Introduced by Honorable Rodante D. Marcoleta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

“Nature-based interventions for mental health are beginning to become more common in the United Kingdom. The evidence for their usefulness is building. Taking the “A Dose of Nature” in the south-west as an example, factors for making such interventions a success are described.”¹ Other initiatives position nature explicitly as the source of betterment, for example ecotherapy programs. In all examples, nature is understood to hold therapeutic potential, and the relationship between experiencing nature and being mentally healthier is the focus.²

It would take only a little initiative from the government to achieve quantum leap in mental health care. A mere tweaking of the ambience that allows for even just a bit of experience of nature would spell a great deal of improvement in Philippine mental health care.

The immediate passage of this timely proposed measure is thus most earnestly sought.


RODANTE D. MARCOLETA

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5663019/> viewed August 19, 2018

² Ibid.

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AN ACT
CALIBRATING ASYLUMS AND PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE
COUNTRY IN SUCH MANNER AS TO SIMULATE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the "National Asylum Calibration Act."

SEC. 2. All asylums and psychiatric institutions are hereby calibrated to simulate a natural environment and to recreate and set up natural habitats, botanical and floral ambiance, and paint work that imitates nature.

SEC. 3. The amount needed to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations for the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the enactment of this Act, the Department of Health shall issue pertinent implementing rules and regulations to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,