

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1918



Introduced by **ANG PROBINSYANO**
Party-List Representative Alfred Delos Santos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enormous stigma associated with jail time is immensely felt in our Philippine society. Since most employment opportunities require clearance from the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation, most Filipinos who were formerly prisoners face a stumbling block to being considered for a job, let alone having competitive compensation for such.

Worldwide statistics show that as many as 60 percent of ex-prisoners are unemployed one year after their release from prison. This results in a lack of income, leading to trouble financially supporting themselves and their families. Often, this may put them at higher risk of alcohol and drug abuse, especially those with a history of drug problems.

If we can provide decent employment opportunities for these individuals, they can acquire income but also rebuild their identities, establish healthy social interactions and meaningful relationships, and be given a renewed sense of purpose and stability. All of which will highly avoid the chances of recidivism.

It is for these reasons that this bill is earnestly sought.



ALFRED C. DELOS SANTOS
Representative, Ang Probinsyano Party-List

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**AN ACT
ENCOURAGING THE EMPLOYMENT OF FORMER PRISONER IN THE PRIVATE
SECTOR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Bagong Laya, Bagong Buhay Act of 2022."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to aid former prisoners to continue their reformation and help them reintegrate into society after they have been released from prison.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. - For the purposes of this Act:

- a) Business establishments refer to private companies that employ former prisoners.
- b) Committee refers to the Committee on Employment Opportunities for Former Prisoners under the Department of Justice.
- c) Former prisoners refer to those convicted by the final judgment and who have been released on probation, parole, pardon, or after having served their sentences.

SECTION 4. Tax Incentives for Private Business Establishments. - Upon the effectiveness of this Act, business establishments that will employ former prisoners as employees shall be entitled to an additional deduction from their gross income, equivalent to twenty percent (20%) of the total amount paid as salaries, wages, and health benefits to former prisoners, subject to the provision of Section 34 of the NIRC, as amended: Provided, however, That such employment shall continue for a period of at least six (6) months.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Secretary of the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor and Employment shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, issue such rules and regulations necessary for the proper implementation of the provisions of this law.

SECTION 6. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter. An initial amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) shall be allocated for the first year of its implementation.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, executive issuances, or letters of instructions, or any part thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. - If, for any reason, any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts thereof not affected shall remain valid.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,