

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

13th CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 902

Introduced by **Honorable Rolex T. Suplico**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The state of our justice system is more often defined by the rate our courts resolved their cases. It is, however, usual to find cases, which have dragged for years in our courts, clogging their dockets. Inevitably, these unresolved cases add up to the general slowdown of court procedure affecting all cases in the long run. In turn, they contribute greatly to the erosion of the people's confidence in our justice system, and to the government in general.

This bill is intended to decongest and/or declog our courts of cases which have been pending for a certain period. While this may not solve the problem of clogged dockets at once, this bill may greatly ease the caseload of our courts and hopefully restore public confidence in our court system and our government in general. Approval, thereof, is thus earnestly requested.

HON. ROLEX T. SUPLICO
Congressman, 5th District of Iloilo

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE AUTOMATIC DISMISSAL OF DORMANT COURT CASES

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

SECTION 1. Policy Statement. – It is the policy of the state to decongest and/or declog courts of their dormant cases.

Sec. 2. Dormant cases defined. – Dormant cases are cases filed with the courts, which have not been prosecuted for a period of six (6) months from the date the last pleading was filed, or the date the last hearing was held.

Sec. 3. Coverage. - This act shall cover the Municipal Trial Courts, the Municipal Circuit Trial Courts, the Regional Trial Courts and the Court of Appeals in all kind of cases filed before them.

Sec. 4. Automatic dismissal. – The courts shall automatically dismiss dormant cases without need of a motion immediately upon the lapse of the six-month period referred to in Sec. 2 above. The order shall become final within fifteen (15) days from receipt thereof.

Sec. 5. Archived cases. – All archived cases shall be automatically dismissed by the courts. Within fifteen (15) days from the receipt thereof, the order of dismissal shall become final.

Sec. 6. Effect of dismissal. – All dismissals contemplated herein shall be with prejudice. In criminal cases, dismissal prior to the arraignment of the accused shall be considered included in the double jeopardy rule. The period shall be computed from the date the information was filed with the court.

Sec. 7. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,