

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Fifteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3654

Introduced by HON. DAISY AVANCE-FUENTES

Article III, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution guarantees that all persons shall be entitled to a speedy disposition of cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies. Twenty-three years after the ratification of said Constitution and the stated provision, there persists the general observation that the wheels of justice continues to grind so slowly in our country, to the detriment of both the victims and the accused.

Article II, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution also declares that the maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for all Filipinos to truly enjoy the blessings of democracy. This representation views that the fulfillment of this basic democratic principles depend not just on effective law enforcement, but also on having an efficient judicial system marked by speedy and prompt administration of justice.

Considering said Constitutional principles, this measure has been filed to prescribe a five (5) year period for the completion and termination of any civil and/or criminal case from the date of filing in the proper court, to the promulgation and effectivity of the final judgment. Consequently, it also seeks to provide for charges of inefficiency or dereliction of duty for failure to comply thereto.

I enjoin all my honorable colleagues of the 15th Congress to ensure swift passage of this measure. The goal of this bill goes beyond the standing issue of judicial reform. Indeed, there remains the fundamental need for Congress to operationalize the Constitutional principles on the swift administration and dispensation of justice.


DAISY AVANCE-FUENTES

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3654

Introduced by Honorable Daisy Avance-Fuentes

AN ACT
PRESCRIBING A MAXIMUM FIVE (5) YEAR PERIOD
FOR THE COMPLETION AND TERMINATION OF ANY CIVIL AND / OR
CRIMINAL CASE

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, all civil and criminal cases must be completed and terminated within five (5) years from the date a civil or criminal case is filed before the proper office or judicial body with the appropriate jurisdiction. For purposes of this Act, completion and/or termination of a case refer to the promulgation and effectivity of the final judgment of the courts and/or the Supreme Court, if such case appealed.

The mandatory period hereof shall not prejudice the provision of Article VIII, Section 15(1) of the 1987 Constitution.

SECTION 2. INEFFICIENCY OR DERELICTION OF DUTY. Should there be failure to complete and terminate a case upon the expiration of the mandatory period as prescribed in Section 1 hereof, the prosecutor, lawyer and judge involved in the case shall be liable for charges of inefficiency or dereliction of duty as the case be. For purposes of this Act, *prima facie* evidence of inefficiency or dereliction of duty such as dilatory tactics shall be a sufficient basis for the imposition of administrative or civil penalties including disbarment as may be determined by the Supreme Court.

SECTION 3. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. The Supreme Court shall issue and publish the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. REPEALING CLAUSE. Any law, decree, order, rule or regulation which is inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act is hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. This Act shall take effect fifteen days after its publication in Filipino and English in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED,