

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

15th CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6310



Introduced by REP. SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III

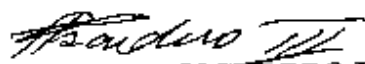
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public office is a public trust. Government officials and employees are accountable to the public. To ensure that the civil servant does not use her position to enrich herself, it is necessary that we put in place a mechanism which will enable the Government to audit the finances of the civil servant.

One such instrument is the signing of a waiver in favor of the Government which will allow the examination of the civil servant's bank accounts and investments in government bonds. This will aid the Government to recover ill-gotten funds.

With the passage of this bill, transparency of the financial standing of the civil servant will serve as a deterrent to graft and corruption.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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REQUIRING PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN PERMISSION OR WAIVER IN FAVOR OF THE OMBUDSMAN TO LOOK INTO ALL DEPOSITS OF WHATEVER NATURE WITH BANKS OR BANKING INSTITUTIONS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES INCLUDING INVESTMENT BONDS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared a policy of the State for all public officials and employees to be open and transparent in all of their financial transactions and dealings;

SEC. 2. *Submission of Written Permission or Waiver.* All public officials and employees, except those who serve in an honorary capacity, shall submit with the office of the Ombudsman a written permission or waiver in favor of the Ombudsman to look into all deposits of whatever nature with banks or banking institutions, both within and outside the Philippines, including investment bonds issued by the government of the Philippines, its political subdivisions and instrumentalities;

The aforestated written permission or waiver shall be submitted within thirty (30) days from the date of their assumption of office; Provided, however, that public officials and employees who are already exercising the functions of their respective offices upon the effectivity of this Act shall submit the same not later than thirty (30) days from the effectivity of the Rules and Regulations implementing the provisions of this Act;

SEC. 3. *Prohibition in Case of Failure or Refusal to Submit Written Permission or Waiver.* Any public official or employee who fails or refuses to submit such written permission or waiver as required by this Act shall not be allowed to enter upon, or continue exercising, the functions of her office;

SEC. 4. *Limitation on Use.* Only the Office of the Ombudsman may obtain or use the written permission or waiver filed under this Act, or any other information or data obtained as a result thereof; Provided, however, that the same shall be used exclusively for investigating a duly signed and verified complaint and/or prosecuting a case before the Sandiganbayan; Provided further, that the Office of the Ombudsman or any other agency or instrumentality of the Government or any person may not use the same for any purpose;

SEC. 5. *Promulgation of Rules and Regulations.* The Office of the Ombudsman shall have the primary responsibility for the administration of this Act; Provided, however, that it shall enlist the advice of the Department of Justice and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in drafting the form of the written permission or waiver as required by the provisions of this Act;

SEC. 6. *Penalties.*

(a) Any person who violates the provisions of Section 3 hereof shall be punished with a fine not exceeding the equivalent of one (1) year salary or suspension not exceeding one (1) year, or removal from office and, upon the discretion of a court of competent jurisdiction, disqualification to hold public office;

(b) Any person who violates the provisions of Section 4 hereof shall be punished with imprisonment of not exceeding six (6) years or a fine not exceeding One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) or both.

SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.* In the event any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remained of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and in effect;

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* The relevant provisions of Republic Act Nos. 1405, 3019, 6713 as well as all laws, decrees and orders or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly;

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect 15 days after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,