

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3953



Introduced by CHRISTOPHER S. CO and RODEL M. BATOCABE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill defines as an offense cutting in or breaking up queues and imposing penalties for such offenses.

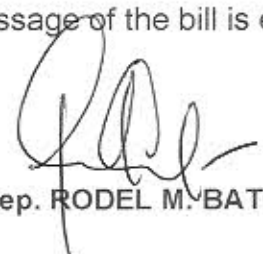
Lining up or queuing is premised on the principle that prior arrival confer superiority in the rank order of the queue, and that it is a precondition of access to the service, which the queue seeks. It is important in social order and peace such that a disruption of such order should be deemed a contemptuous act directed against individuals constituting the queue and the providers of the service.

The proponents are certain that this measure will enforce peace and order and will instill the values of timeliness, courteousness, discipline, patience, and respect. The advantages of falling in line do not end at fulfilling a safe and orderly provision of goods and services. It also leads to a culture and social behavior of self-control and self-discipline, which are important social and cultural factors in curbing peddling, corruption, harassment and oppression.

This bill adheres to the "Anti-wang-wang policy" of the current administration as it prohibits the use of any positions of power, social status, prominence, or reputation to cut in, break up, or disrupt the order of a line. Recently, no less than the President personally lined up at the Land Transportation Office for the renewal of his driver's license and refusing any form of VIP treatment from the said government agency.

In view of the above circumstances, the swift passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. CHRISTOPHER S. CO


Rep. RODEL M. BATOCABE

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AN ACT
PENALIZING THE ACT OF CUTTING IN LINE, BREAKING LINES, AND OTHER
RELATED ACTS FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Anti-Singit Act of 2014”

Section 2. Definition. For purposes of this Act, a line is defined as a physical line of waiting customers and potential customers who wait for service or goods from one or more service-providers. A queuing/line system which employs mechanisms to expedite the line, make the line convenient and comfortable for customers or potential customers, by not requiring the formation of a line but requiring their physical presence during the wait until they are served, shall be regarded as a line.

Section 3. Offenses. The following acts shall constitute the offense of *Cutting in Lines* or *Singit* under this Act:

- (a) overtly or covertly enter a line at any position other than the end which may include joining others in the line or using any instrument or scheme to save a slot or space in a line;
- (b) break up a line or employ devices and schemes to disrupt the order and cause confusion as to the order of persons in a physical or virtual line;
- (c) make use of any positions of power, social status, prominence, or reputation to cut in, break up, or disrupt the order of a line; or
- (d) employ devices, schemes, and deceit in order to cut in, break up, or disrupt the order of a line.

Provided that, in all above instances, there is a signage or written notice posted at the premises of the service-provider indicating the existence and requiring the formation of a line.

Section 4. Penalties. – Any person who shall violate the provisions of Section 4 hereof shall suffer the penalty of arresto menor or a fine not exceeding five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) or both imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the court.

Section 5. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provision of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,