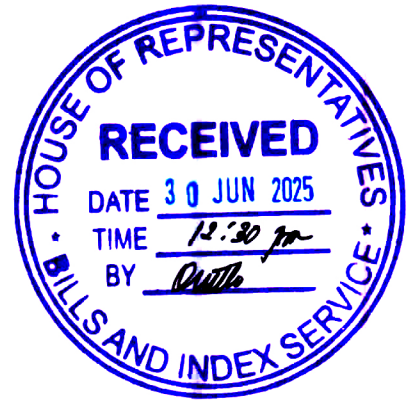




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 156



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE GERALD CLOYD ALEXIS V. GALANG**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State Policy of the Philippines under Article 2, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

"Section 13. The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and thus, promotes and protects their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being, inculcates in them patriotism, nationalism and other desirable values, and encourage, their involvement in public and civic affairs.

Towards this end, the State shall establish adequate, effective, responsive, and enabling mechanisms and support systems that will ensure the meaningful participation of the youth in local governance and nation-building."

The Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Reform Act of 2015, or Republic Act 10742 has been a landmark legislation that has advanced reforms to the SK as an important institution for youth participation. Ten years after the law has been passed and after some amendments have been introduced through the passage of Republic Act 11768 in May 2022, there persists some issues that need to be further addressed.

While the anti-dynasty provision in the SK Reform law has been hailed as a trailblazing reform that advances the 1987 Constitution prohibition on political dynasties, the prohibition is anchored only upon an incumbent barangay or local government official. The provision does not prohibit or prevent the creation of a dynastic set-up when a family members or relatives who are both non-incumbent could simultaneously win in the BSKE election.

In terms of the SK officials' age range post SK reform, the language used in the law can still be revised to make it less confusing to prospective candidates. "The age provision can be changed to 'below 25 years of age' as a requirement to include those 24 years and a day or days more.

In view of the foregoing, the prompt passage of this bill is urgently sought.


GERALD GALANG
2nd Legislative District, City of Valenzuela



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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE GERALD CLOYD ALEXIS V. GALANG**

AN ACT
AMENDING THE QUALIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 10 OF THE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11768 OR THE "SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN REFORM
ACT OF 2015"

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

SECTION 1. Section 10 of the Republic Act No. 11768 or Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, in relation to Republic Act No. 7160, also known as The Local Government Code of 1991 and Republic Act No. 8044, otherwise known as "Youth In Nation-Building Act" is hereby amended to clearly define the qualifying age as below twenty-five years of age on the day of the elections and adding additional disqualification against an aspiring Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) candidate who has a relative within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any incumbent or INCOMING elected national official or to any incumbent or INCOMING elected regional, provincial, city, municipal, or barangay official, in the locality where he or she seeks to be elected, , to be read as follows:

"SECTION 10. Qualifications. - An official of the Sangguniang Kabataan, either elective or appointee, must be a citizen of the Philippines, a qualified voter of the Katipunan ng Kabataan, a resident of the barangay for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the elections, at least eighteen (18) years but **below twenty-five (25)** years of age on the day of the elections, able to read and write Filipino, English, or the local dialect, must not be related within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any incumbent or incoming elected national official or to any incumbent or incoming elected regional, provincial, city, municipal, or barangay official, in the locality where he or she seeks to be elected, and must not have been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude."

SEC. 2. The amendment shall be implemented and enforced on the next SK election in any date the COMELEC shall set in case of any postponement.

SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions, which are not affected, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, or rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,