



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 381



Introduced by Representative JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 26 of the 1987 Constitution provides that:

*"The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law."*¹

According to a 2024 study by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), political families continue to dominate the country's political system. The report revealed that 216 out of 253 district representatives, 71 of 82 governors, 113 out of 149 mayors, and 36 out of 54 party-list representatives are members of political dynasties.²

Political dynasties have long entrenched themselves within the Philippine political landscape. These dynasties refer to families whose members wield significant political and economic influence, often occupying elective positions either simultaneously or successively. Over time, they tend to monopolize public offices, foster cronyism, and undermine democratic institutions. Their continued dominance in politics perpetuates poverty, suppresses citizen participation, reinforces systemic corruption, and degrades public service standards.

Thus, this proposed measure seeks to clearly define what constitutes a political dynasty, prohibit political dynasty relationships in holding elective positions, and enact an anti-political dynasty law that fulfills the mandate set forth in the 1987 Constitution.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

JONATHAN KEITH T. FLORES
2nd District of Bukidnon

¹ Philippine Constitution, 1987, art. II, sec. 26.

² G. Latoza & M. Miranda, *8 in every 10 district reps belong to dynasties. More than half are reelectionists in 2025*, Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, October 26, 2024.



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AN ACT
DEFINING AND PROHIBITING POLITICAL DYNASTIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "The Anti-Political Dynasty Act of 2025."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to guarantee equal access and opportunity to public office and service to the public. Towards this end, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to prohibit political dynasties as hereinafter defined.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - The following terms, as used herein shall mean:

- a. "*Political Dynasty*" shall refer to the concentration, consolidation and/or perpetuation of political powers by persons related to one another within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity;
- b. "*Political Dynasty Relationship*" shall exist when the spouse or any relative within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity of an incumbent elective official, runs for public office to succeed or replace the incumbent, or runs for or holds any elective local office simultaneously with the incumbent within the same province, legislative district and/or city/municipality, and within the same barangay and barangays within the same legislative district.

The relationship also exists if the incumbent is a national elective official, and the spouse or relatives within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity run for any position in the national level or in the local level as mayor, governor or district representative in any part of the country. It shall also be deemed to exist where two (2) or more persons who are spouses, or are related to one another within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity run simultaneously for elective public office at the national level, or at the local level within the same province, legislative district and/or municipality/city, and within the same barangay and/or barangays within the same legislative district, even if neither is so related to an incumbent elective official;

- c. *"Spouse"* shall refer to the legal and common-law wife or husband of an incumbent elective official;
- d. *"Second Civil Degree of Consanguinity or Affinity"* shall refer to the relatives of a person who may be the latter's brother or sister, whether of full or half-blood, direct ascendant or direct descendant, whether legitimate, illegitimate or adopted, including their spouses;
- e. *"Term Limits"* shall refer to the maximum term limits for elected public officials as provided for in the Constitution;
- f. *"Running for an Elective Office"* shall refer to the period that commences upon the filing of the certificate of candidacy by a candidate with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC); and
- g. *"Holding an Elective Office"* shall refer to the period that commences from the moment the public official takes his or her oath of office.

SEC. 4. *Applicability.* - This Act shall govern and be applicable to the next elections and all subsequent elections thereafter. In the case of incumbent elected officials who have political dynasty relationship with one another at the national level and/or local level, they shall be allowed to run in all subsequent elections until they reach their respective term limits as provided for in the Constitution.

SEC. 5. *Prohibited Candidates; Scenarios Covered.* - Any person with political dynasty relationship, as defined in Section 3 of this Act, with any incumbent elective official, shall not be allowed to run for or hold public office in the following manner:

- a. to succeed or replace the said incumbent;
- b. If the incumbent is an elective barangay official, the spouse and the above relatives are prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the same barangay as well as in all the barangays in municipalities/cities within the same legislative district;
- c. If the incumbent is an elective official of the municipality/city, legislative district and/or province, the spouse and above relatives are prohibited to run for or hold any elective local office simultaneously with the incumbent within the same municipality/city, legislative district and/or province;
- d. If the incumbent is a national elective official, the spouse and the above relatives are likewise prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the national level or in the local level as mayor, governor or district representative in any part of the country. However, the spouse and said relatives may run for vice governor, vice mayor, or any legislative councils at the provincial, city or municipal level; and
- e. If the incumbent is a governor or district representative, the spouse and the above relatives are also prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the national level.

Persons who are not holding any public office shall likewise be prohibited from running in the same election if their election will result in a political dynasty relationship. *Provided,*

however, that if the same elective position is involved, the bona fide certificate of candidacy that was filed first will be recognized.

SEC. 6. *Statement with the Commission on Elections.* - Any person running for any elective public office shall file a sworn statement with the COMELEC that he or she is not among the prohibited candidates mentioned in the preceding section.

SEC. 7. *Petition for Disqualification.* - Any citizen of voting age, candidate, or duly-registered political party, organization, or coalition of political parties, may file with the COMELEC, after the last day of filing of certificate of candidacy and before proclamation, a verified Petition to disqualify a candidate on grounds provided for in Section 5 of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Summary Proceedings.* - The petition shall be heard and decided summarily by the COMELEC, after due notice and hearing, and its decision shall be executory after the lapse of five (5) days from receipt thereof by the losing party.

SEC. 9. *Effect of Violation of Prohibition.* - The COMELEC shall, *motu proprio* or upon a verified petition of any interested party, deny due course to any Certificate of Candidacy filed in violation of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Effect if Petition is Unresolved Before Completion of Canvass.* - If the Petition for Disqualification has not been resolved before the completion of canvass, the votes cast for the respondent shall be included in the counting and canvassing: *Provided*, however, if the basis for disqualification is strong, the proclamation shall be suspended even if the respondent is leading in the canvassing of votes.

If the candidate has been proclaimed, his or her political dynasty relationship shall be grounds for disqualification in an appropriate quo warranto proceeding.

SEC. 11. *Rules and Regulations.* - The COMELEC shall promulgate all the rules and regulations necessary for the full implementation of this Act.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, or part thereof, contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,