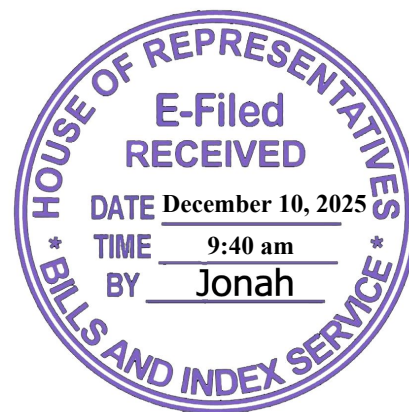




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 6753

Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K. Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING SECTORAL REPRESENTATION IN LOCAL SANGGUNIANs FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, WOMEN, YOUTH, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs), AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (IPs), PROVIDING FOR THEIR MANDATORY SELECTION OR ELECTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article X Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution provides that legislative bodies of local governments shall have sectoral representation as may be prescribed by law.

The State, in order to ensure inclusive governance by promoting the participation of marginalized and underrepresented sectors in local decision-making, recognizes the need for institutionalized representation of senior citizens, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples in local legislative bodies.

Thus, this bill seeks to include, in addition to the regular members of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, *Sangguniang Panlungsod*, and *Sangguniang Bayan*, one (1) representative each from the following sectors - Senior Citizens, Women, Youth, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs), where applicable. These sectoral representatives shall have the same rights, duties, powers, compensation, and privileges as regular members of the *Sanggunian*.

Enhancing sectoral representation ensures diverse voices from specific groups, ensuring that they are included in decision-making processes, leading to more inclusive and equitable policies. Further, it promotes accountability, helps address the unique needs of different sectors, and provides a mechanism for direct participation in matters that affect them.

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



FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



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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 "Sectoral Representation in Local Councils Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to ensure inclusive governance by promoting the participation of marginalized and underrepresented

sectors in local decision-making. The State recognizes the need for institutionalized representation of senior citizens, women, youth, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples in local legislative bodies.

SECTION 3. Sectoral Representatives in Local Councils. - In addition to the regular members of the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, *Sangguniang Panlungsod*, and *Sangguniang Bayan*, one (1) seat each shall be reserved for the following sectors:

- a. Senior Citizens;
- b. Women;
- c. Youth;
- d. Persons with Disabilities (PWDs); and
- e. Indigenous Peoples (IPs), where applicable.

These sectoral representatives shall have the same rights, duties, powers, compensation, and privileges as regular members of the *Sanggunian*.

SECTION 4. Mode of Selection or Election. - The sectoral representatives shall be selected or elected through the following mechanisms:

- a. Youth Representative – Elected through the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation;
- b. Women’s Representative – Selected by accredited local women’s organizations through a general assembly convened by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);

- c. Senior Citizens' Representative – Selected by the local federation of senior citizens' associations;
- d. PWD Representative – Selected by the federation of PWD organizations at the local level;
- e. Indigenous Peoples' Representative – Selected in accordance with customary laws and procedures recognized under the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), with coordination from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

The DILG, in coordination with relevant national agencies and accredited local sectoral organizations, shall issue the guidelines and facilitate the conduct of selection or elections within ninety (90) days before local elections.

SECTION 5. Term of Office. - The sectoral representatives shall serve a term of three (3) years, concurrent with the term of elected local officials. They may serve for a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms.

SECTION 6. Qualifications. - To be eligible for sectoral representation, a candidate must:

- a. Be a bona fide member of the sector they represent;
- b. Be a resident of the local government unit for at least one (1) year;

- c. Be of good moral character and have no pending criminal or administrative case;
- d. Be able to read and write in Filipino or the local dialect; and
- e. Be endorsed by an accredited or recognized organization of the sector in the locality.

SECTION 7. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the DILG. Thereafter, such amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, in consultation with the National Youth Commission (NYC), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), and the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. - All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,