

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6766



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
DISQUALIFYING RELATIVES OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS WITHIN THE FOURTH
CIVIL DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY IN ALL GOVERNMENT
CONTRACTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XI of the 1987 Constitution clearly mandates that public officers and employees must remain fully accountable to the people. Public office is a public trust. Public officers are duty-bound to uphold the highest standards of responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, and to act with patriotism and justice while leading modest lives. These constitutional principles are not just words; they are the foundation of public service.

The Padrino System has long existed in the country, a system which has become a deeply rooted practice in both professional and government settings. Families, relatives or close associates of those in power are often favored instead of using a merit-based system. This practice continues to cast a shadow over genuine public service in the country and erodes confidence in institutions, diminishing the value of a merit-based public service.

While policies such as Republic Act No. 12009 or the "*New Government Procurement Act*" require standard bidding documents to disclose relationships and beneficial ownership, such policies fall short on preventing individuals who are relatives of other public officers, who are not directly involved in procurement, in the same procuring entity from influencing the same government project bidding. Consequently, even with mandatory disclosures, opportunities remain vulnerable to concentration within well-connected circles.

This vulnerability was made starkly evident in the recent controversies involving flood control projects, where reports showed numerous contracts awarded to only a handful of contractors. Such patterns not only call the integrity of the procurement system into question but also deepen public frustration and distrust. When government projects repeatedly fall into the hands of the same powerful groups, the perception of fairness is compromised, and the spirit of public accountability is weakened.

In response, this measure seeks to strengthen transparency, protect the impartiality of the procurement process, and close long-standing loopholes that allow undue influence to persist. By ensuring a more equitable distribution of opportunities, the measure aims to restore faith in government systems and reaffirm the principle that public resources must serve the many—not the privileged few.

Therefore, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Disqualification on the Basis of Relations.*** — Notwithstanding any
2 provision of existing laws to the contrary, all relatives of public officials within the fourth civil
3 degree of consanguinity or affinity shall be barred from entering into any government contract.
4

5 For purposes of this Act, the term "*public official*" shall refer to heads of agency, heads
6 of procuring entity, members of governing board, or any public officer or employee exercising
7 policy-determining, supervisory, or managerial functions, whether in the career or non-career
8 service, including military and uniformed personnel, whether or not they receive
9 compensation, regardless of amount.
10

11 Moreover, the term "*government contract*" shall refer to any contract between a private
12 entity and any government agency or instrumentality, including government-owned or
13 controlled corporations (GOCCs) and local government units, that pertains to (a) supplies,
14 materials, machinery, equipment, and services; (b) infrastructure projects; (c) joint ventures;
15 (d) public-private partnership projects; and (e) other similar or analogous agreements or
16 undertaking to which the latter is the procuring party, partner, shareholder, implementing

1 agency, end user, or a party contributing public funds or property: *Provided*, that this shall
2 exclude contracts that are highly technical, proprietary, or confidential in nature.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*.** — Within sixty (60) days from
5 the effectivity of this Act, the Government Procurement Policy Board, the Department of the
6 Interior and Local Government, the Public-Private Partnership Center, and the Governance
7 Commission for GOCCs, in consultation with government agencies concerned, shall jointly
8 promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

9
10 **SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause*.** — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, other
11 issuances, and parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
12 repealed or modified accordingly.

13
14 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity*.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
15 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,