

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City  
**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. 6886



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**Introduced by Representative**

**BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA.**

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**AN ACT DEFINING AND PROHIBITING POLITICAL DYNASTIES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The 1987 Constitution expressly declares it a policy of the State to guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and to prohibit political dynasties, as may be defined by law. More than three decades after the ratification of the Constitution, this mandate remains unfulfilled. In the absence of a clear and enforceable statutory definition, political dynasties have continued to expand across national and local levels, concentrating political power within a limited number of families and constraining genuine political competition.

The persistence of political dynasties undermines the development of strong democratic institutions. It limits opportunities for capable and service-oriented leaders who lack political lineage, weakens accountability, and reinforces patronage-based politics. While family participation in public life is not, in itself, inherently improper, the simultaneous control of elective offices by closely related individuals creates conditions that are incompatible with fair competition, equal access to public service, and the constitutional principle that sovereignty resides in the people.

This measure seeks to operationalize the constitutional prohibition on political dynasties in a manner that is clear, reasonable, and consistent with democratic rights. Rather than imposing a blanket or perpetual disqualification based solely on family relations, the bill adopts a narrow and targeted approach: it prohibits the simultaneous holding of elective public office by individuals related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity, where one is an incumbent elective official.

By focusing on simultaneous office-holding, the bill strikes a balance between two fundamental interests. On one hand, it prevents the concentration and perpetuation of political power within a single family at any given time. On the other, it respects the electorate's right to choose their representatives and preserves the right of qualified citizens to seek public office, subject only to reasonable regulation in the public interest.

To ensure fairness and due process, the bill provides a clear mechanism for implementation through the Commission on Elections and the Boards of Canvassers. In cases where related candidates are elected to positions that would result in a prohibited political dynasty, the law allows the parties to determine, by voluntary agreement, who shall assume office. Only in the absence of such agreement will an objective resolution mechanism apply. This framework avoids arbitrary disqualification and minimizes the risk of politicized enforcement.

Ultimately, this measure is not intended to punish families or restrict political participation based on lineage. Its purpose is to broaden democratic space, encourage merit-based leadership, and gradually strengthen political institutions by preventing the excessive concentration of elective power. By finally giving substance to a long-standing constitutional mandate, the bill affirms that public office is a public trust—open to all qualified Filipinos, not reserved to a few.

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

  
HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA.  
Representative  
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List

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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-Political Dynasty Act."

**Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to guarantee and provide equal access to opportunities for public office and public service to any qualified Filipino, pursuant to Section 26, Article II of the 1987 Constitution. Towards this end, the State shall prohibit political dynasties as defined under Section 5 of this Act.

**Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- a) COMELEC refers to the Commission on Elections;
- b) Political Dynasty refers to the concentration, consolidation and/or perpetuation of political powers by persons related to one another within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity;
- c) Political Dynasty Relationship shall exist when the spouse or any relative within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity of an incumbent elective official holds any elective office simultaneously with the said incumbent;
- d) Spouse refers to the legal and common-law wife or husband of an incumbent elective official; and
- e) Third Civil Degree of Consanguinity or Affinity refers to the relatives of a person who may be the latter's uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, great-grandparent, or great-grandchild, whether legitimate, illegitimate, or adopted, including their spouses.

**Sec. 4. Applicability.** – This Act shall govern and be applicable to the next elections and all subsequent elections thereafter.

**Sec. 5. Prohibited Candidates.** – Any person with a political dynasty relationship with any incumbent elective official as defined in Section 3 of this Act, shall not be allowed to hold public office.

**Sec. 6. Determination of Elected Candidates with Political Dynasty Relationship.** – Whenever it appears from the official canvass that two or more candidates elected to the same or different positions at the local or national level are related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity and would hold office simultaneously, the Board of Canvassers, after recording this fact in its minutes, by resolution, shall hold a special public meeting to resolve the matter.

The Board shall determine which candidate shall be proclaimed and allowed to assume office based on the following **Official Order of Precedence**:

1. **Voluntary Agreement.** The Board shall first determine whether the related candidates have voluntarily entered into an agreement as to who shall withdraw. If such an agreement exists, the Board shall abide by the terms of the agreement and proclaim the agreed-upon candidate.
2. **Precedence of Higher Office.** In the absence of a voluntary agreement, the candidate elected to the higher elective office shall take precedence and shall be proclaimed. For this purpose, the hierarchy of offices shall be determined by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) based on the order of succession and official rank, with National offices taking precedence over Local offices, and Provincial offices taking precedence over City or Municipal offices.
3. **Precedence of Larger Constituency.** If the related candidates are elected to offices of equivalent rank, the candidate elected by the larger constituency, based on the total population or number of registered voters of the territory represented, shall take precedence and shall be proclaimed.
4. **Drawing of Lots.** In cases where the foregoing rules are inapplicable or fail to determine a single qualified candidate, the Board shall proceed to a drawing of lots among the concerned candidates. The candidate favored by luck shall be officially proclaimed and shall have the right to assume office.

The Board shall immediately issue a certificate of proclamation stating the name of the candidate determined by these rules and the specific basis of the proclamation. Nothing in this section shall be construed as depriving any candidate of the right to contest the election in accordance with existing laws.

**Sec. 7. Effect of Violation of Prohibition.** – The COMELEC shall, motu proprio or upon a verified petition of any interested party, initiate proceedings or act on any petition to cancel or annul any proclamation, or to suspend the assumption into office, made in violation of this Act.


**Sec. 8. Rules and Regulation.** – The COMELEC shall promulgate all the rules and regulations necessary for the full implementation of this Act.

**Sec. 9. 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. 10. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act shall remain valid and subsisting.

**Sec. 11. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette, or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*

  
HON. BRIAN POE, PhD, MNSA.  
Representative  
FPJ Panday Bayanihan Party-List