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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6888



Introduced by Representative Edsel A. Galeos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed measure aims to define and prohibit political dynasties.

Article II Section 26 of the 1987 Constitution states that the State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law.

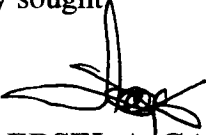
In an article published by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) in January 2025, it was reported that 113 out of 149 Philippine cities are governed by political dynasties. Out of the country's city mayors, 56 out of 149 have relatives concurrently serving as the vice mayor or as members of the city council. Prior to the 2025 elections, PCIJ also found that 71 out of 82 Philippine Governors belong to political families.

In 2015, the Philippines Institute for Development Studies released a study which found that dynasties are pervasive in the ten poorest provinces in the country. These provinces are "afflicted by low levels of human development, bad governance, violence and poor business climates." In these areas, the political dynasties "exacerbate bad governance failing to reduce, if not actually worsen, poverty conditions."

Political families have long dominated both the national and local politics of the country. The concentration of power within a single family or a few families discourages other qualified individuals from seeking public office. Dynastic politics inherently heightens the risk of corruption as institutional checks and balances are undermined when public officials are reluctant to hold their own family members accountable. Ultimately, political families are more likely to protect and advance their own interests rather than prioritize the welfare and needs of their constituents.

Decades have passed since the adoption and ratification of the 1987 Constitution yet the enabling law prohibiting political dynasties has not yet been enacted. It is high time this measure be passed.

For the foregoing reasons, approval of this bill is earnestly sought


EDSEL A. GALEOS

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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House Bill No. **6888**

Introduced by Representative Edsel A. Galeos

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:

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Political Dynasty Act of
2 2025.”
3

4 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to guarantee
5 equal access and opportunity to public office and service to the public. Towards this end, it is hereby
6 declared the policy of the State to prohibit political dynasties as hereinafter defined.
7

8 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – The following terms as used herein shall mean:
9

10 a. “*Political Dynasty*” shall refer to the concentration, consolidation and/or perpetuation of
11 political powers by persons related to one another within the fourth degree of consanguinity
12 or affinity;
13

14 b. “*Political Dynasty Relationship*” shall exist when the spouse or any relative within the
15 fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity of an incumbent elective official runs for public
16 office to succeed or replace the incumbent, or runs for or holds any elective local office
17 simultaneously with the incumbent within the same province, legislative district and/or
18 city/municipality, and within the same barangay and barangays within the same legislative
19 district.
20

21 The relationship also exists if the incumbent is a national elective official and the spouse
22 or relative within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity runs for any position in the
23 national level or in the local level as mayor, governor, district representative in any part of
24 the country. It shall also be deemed to exist where two (2) or more persons who are spouses,
25 or are related to one another within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity run
26 simultaneously for elective public office at the national level, or at the local level within
27 the same province, legislative district and/or municipality/city, and within the same
28 barangay and/or barangays within the same legislative district, even if neither is related to
29 an incumbent elective official
30

31 c. “*Spouse*” shall refer to the legal and common-law wife or husband of an incumbent elective
32 official;

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2 d. *“Relatives by Consanguinity or Affinity”* are relatives with whom an individual shares a
3 common ancestor whether legitimate, illegitimate, or adopted, or the relatives of one’s
4 spouse;
5
6 e. *“Term Limits”* shall refer to the maximum term limits for elected public officials as
7 provided for the in Constitution;
8
9 f. *“Running for an Elective Office”* shall refer to the period that commences upon the filing
10 of the certificate of candidacy by a candidate with the Commission on Elections
11 (COMELEC); and
12
13 g. *“Holding an Elective Office”* shall refer to the period that commences from the moment
14 the public official takes his or her oath of office.
15

16 **SECTION 4. *Applicability.*** – This Act shall govern and be applicable to the next elections and
17 all subsequent elections thereafter.
18

19 **SECTION 5. *Prohibited Candidates; Scenarios Covered.*** – Any person with political dynasty
20 relationship as defined in Section 3 of this Act, with any incumbent elective official, shall not be
21 allowed to run for or hold public office in the following manner:
22

- 23 a. To immediately succeed or replace the said incumbent;
24
25 b. If the incumbent is an elective barangay official, the spouse and the abovementioned
26 relatives are prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the same barangay, as well
27 in all the barangays in municipalities/cities within the same legislative district;
28
29 c. If the incumbent is an elective official of the municipality/city, legislative district and/or
30 province, the spouse and abovementioned relatives are prohibited to run for or hold any
31 elective local office simultaneously with the incumbent within the same municipality/city,
32 legislative district and/or province;
33
34 d. If the incumbent is a national elective official, the spouse and the abovementioned relatives
35 are likewise prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the national level or in the
36 local level as mayor, governor or district representative in any part of the country. However,
37 the spouse sand said relatives may run for vice governor, vice mayor, or any legislative
38 councils at the provincial, city, or municipal level; and
39
40 e. If the incumbent is a governor or district representative, the spouse and the abovementioned
41 relatives are also prohibited to run simultaneously for any position in the national level.
42

43 Persons who are not holding any public office shall likewise be prohibited from running in the
44 same election if their election will result in a political dynasty relationship. *Provided*, however, that if
45 the same elective position is involved, the bona fide certificate of candidacy that was filed first will be
46 recognized.
47

48 **SECTION 6. *Statement with the Commission on Elections.*** – Any person running for any
49 elective public office shall file a sworn statement with the COMELEC that he or she is not among the
50 prohibited candidates mentioned in the preceding section.
51

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

6 **SECTION 8. *Summary Proceedings.*** – The petition shall be heard and decided summarily by
7 the COMELEC, after due notice and hearing, and its decision shall be executory after the lapse of five
8 (5) days from receipt thereof by the losing party.
9

10 **SECTION 9. *Effect of Violation of Prohibition.*** – The COMELEC shall, *motu proprio* or
11 upon a verified petition of any party, deny due course to any Certificate of Candidacy filed in violation
12 of this Act.
13

14 **SECTION 10. *Effect if Petition is Unresolved Before Completion of Canvass.*** – f the Petition
15 for Disqualification has not been resolved before the completion of canvass, the votes case for the
16 respondent shall be included in the counting and canvassing; *Provided*, however, if the basis for
17 disqualification is strong, the proclamation shall be suspended even if the respondent is leading in the
18 canvassing of votes.
19

20 If the candidate has been proclaimed, his or her political dynasty relationship shall be grounds for
21 disqualification in an appropriate quo warranto proceeding.
22

23 **SECTION 11. *Rules and Regulations.*** – The COMELEC shall promulgate all the rules and
24 regulations necessary for the full implementation of this Act.
25

26 **SECTION 12. *Repleading Clause.*** – The COMELEC shall promulgate all the rules and
27 regulations necessary for the full implementation of this Act.
28

29 **SECTION 13. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
30 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall remain valid and subsisting.
31

32 **SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
33 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.
34

35 *Approved,*