



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6925**



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 26 of the 1987 Constitution clearly mandates that *“The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service, and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law.”* Nearly four decades after this provision was ratified, Congress has yet to enact the enabling legislation that gives life to this constitutional directive. The absence of such a law has allowed political dynasties to expand and entrench themselves in many parts of the country, limiting democratic choice and weakening accountability in government.

Political dynasties have long been recognized as a major structural barrier to genuine political competition. When the same families monopolize elective positions across multiple levels of government, they constrain the entry of new leaders, maintain patronage-dependent systems, and concentrate public power within narrow family networks. These conditions undermine transparency, erode checks and balances, and distort public resource allocation. Ultimately, they weaken the quality of governance and the responsiveness of institutions to the needs of ordinary citizens.

This bill seeks to give full effect to the Constitution by defining and prohibiting political dynasties within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, in both national and local elective offices. Unlike previous proposals focused solely on territorial overlap, this measure adopts a clear and enforceable regulatory framework based on degrees of relationship, simultaneity, and combinations of elective positions. It recognizes the need for reasonable limits that promote fairness in the political arena without disregarding legitimate democratic choice.

This bill also recognizes that the objective is not to penalize families nor to undermine legitimate public service, but to prevent the undue concentration of electoral power that compromises the integrity of our democracy. By setting clear and balanced limitations, the measure seeks to widen political participation, promote merit-based leadership, and reduce the structural advantages that have long hindered political pluralism.

The passage of a genuine Anti-Political Dynasty Law is a necessary step toward strengthening our democratic institutions and fulfilling the promise of equal access to public service. It is a long-awaited reform that empowers the electorate, opens doors for new leaders, and realigns political power with the constitutional vision of fairness and accountability.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte



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AN ACT
DEFINING POLITICAL DYNASTY AND PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT
THEREOF

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 "The Anti-Political Dynasty Act of 2025."

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to uphold the constitutional mandate under Article II, Section 26 of the 1987 Constitution which provides that "*The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law.*"

The State recognizes that political dynasties exert a distorting influence on democratic processes, weaken political competition, reinforce patronage systems, and concentrate public power in a narrow segment of society. Such concentration undermines transparency, accountability, and equal opportunity in public office.

Consistent with this policy, the State shall define, regulate, and prohibit political dynasties within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, to ensure a more level electoral playing field, broaden political participation, and promote responsible governance.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act:

- (a) **“Political Dynasty”** refers only to the situation where two (2) or more persons related to each other within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, whether legitimate or illegitimate, of the full or half-blood, including relations by adoption, simultaneously run for or simultaneously hold elective public office in a manner that exceeds the maximum combination of one (1) national, one (1) local, and one (1) barangay elective office allowed under this Act.

(b) **“Political Dynasty Relationship”** exists when:

1. A person is the spouse, or a relative by consanguinity or affinity within the second civil degree, of another person who is:
 - i. An incumbent elective official; or
 - ii. A candidate for an elective office in the same election; and
2. Such persons simultaneously run for, or simultaneously hold, elective offices in a configuration that constitutes a political dynasty under paragraph (a).

A political dynasty relationship under this Act requires simultaneity and does not include purely successive holding of elective offices by relatives.

(c) **“Relatives within the Second Civil Degree of Consanguinity or Affinity”** shall refer to the relatives of a person who may be the latter's parents, children, brother or sister, grandchildren, and grandparents whether of full or half-blood, direct ascendant or direct descendant, whether legitimate, illegitimate or adopted, including their spouses, in accordance with the Civil Code and the Family Code of the Philippines;

(d) **“Incumbent Elective Official”** refers to any person who validly holds an elective public office, whether national, local, or barangay, by reason of election or lawful succession, and whose term has not yet legally expired, regardless of preventive suspension or temporary incapacity.

(e) **“Running for an Elective Office”** commences upon the filing of the certificate of candidacy with the COMELEC;

(f) **“Holding an Elective Office”** commences upon proclamation and lawful assumption of office and continues until the end of the term, resignation, permanent vacancy or other lawful termination of tenure.

(g) **“Simultaneous Candidacy”** refers to:

1. The filing of certificates of candidacy within the same election period by persons within the prohibited degree, where the terms of office to which they seek election would overlap in time; or
2. The situation where two (2) or more such relatives are incumbent elective officials whose terms legally overlap.

(h) **“Elective Positions”** refer to the positions of:

1. National Level: President, Vice-President, Senators, Members of House Representatives, including party-list representatives;
2. Local Level: Governors, Vice Governors, Provincial Board Members, Mayors, Vice Mayors, Sangguniang Panlungsod and Bayan Members; and
3. Barangay Level: Punong Barangay and Members of the Sangguniang Barangay

(i) Levels of Office and Territorial Jurisdiction

For clarity in applying the one-national, one-local, one-barangay rule:

1. **“National office”** refers to any elective office whose constituency is the entire Philippines;
2. **“Local Office”** refers to elective provincial, city, municipal, and district representative positions whose constituency is less than the entire Philippines but more than a single barangay; and
3. **“Barangay Office”** refers to elective barangay positions whose constituency is a single barangay.

Overlapping territorial jurisdictions do not, by themselves, constitute a political dynasty if the configuration complies with the one-national, one-local, one-barangay limitation.

Section 4. *Scope of the Prohibition.*

(a) Simultaneous Political Dynasty Prohibited. No political dynasty, as defined in Section 3(a), shall be allowed. In particular, it shall be unlawful for:

1. More than one (1) relative within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to be simultaneously candidates for, or incumbents in, national elective positions;
2. More than one (1) relative within the said degree to be simultaneously candidates for, or incumbents in, local elective positions within any overlapping territorial jurisdiction; or
3. More than one (1) relative within the said degree to be simultaneously candidates for, or incumbents in, barangay elective positions within the same city or municipality.

(b) Allowed Combinations. Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the following combinations among persons related within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are expressly allowed and shall not constitute a political dynasty:

1. One (1) national elective official or candidate,
2. One (1) national local elective official or candidate, and
3. One (1) barangay elective official or candidate,

even if their constituencies or territorial jurisdictions overlap geographically, provided that there is no additional relative within the prohibited degree simultaneously running for or holding an elective office at the same level.

Section 5. *Prohibited Candidates and Configurations.*

(a) Prohibited Simultaneous Candidacy.

A person shall be disqualified from being a candidate in any election if his or her candidacy, when taken together with the candidacy or incumbency of a spouse or relative within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, would result in the creation of a political dynasty under Section 3(a) and Section 4 of this Act.

(b) Party-List System.

For purposes of the party-list system, no party-list organization shall nominate as its representatives two (2) or more persons who are related to each other within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity, nor shall it nominate any person whose nomination, when taken together with the candidacy or incumbency of a spouse or relative within the said degree, would violate the one-national, one-local, one-barangay configuration under this Act.

The existence of such relationships shall constitute grounds for the refusal or cancellation of the registration of the nominee or the party-list group, or for disqualification of the nominee, in accordance with COMELEC rules.

Substitution within the second degree shall likewise constitute grounds for disqualification.

Section 6. *Filing of Statement with COMELEC.* - Every candidate shall file, together with his or her certificate of candidacy, a sworn declaration stating:

1. All known spouses and relatives within the second civil degree of consanguinity or affinity who are incumbent elective officials; and
2. All such relatives who are candidates in the same election.

The sworn declaration shall further state that the candidacy does not result in a prohibited political dynasty under this Act.

False declarations shall constitute an election offense punishable under the Omnibus Election Code and other applicable election laws, without prejudice to prosecution under the Revised Penal Code for perjury.

Section 7. *Petition for Disqualification.* - Any citizen of voting age, candidate, accredited political party, organization, or coalition, may file with COMELEC a verified petition to disqualify a candidate for violations of this Act.

Petitions may be filed after the last day for filing of certificates of candidacy and within the period provided by COMELEC rules on disqualification, and shall be resolved in accordance with the summary procedures and due process requirements applicable to disqualification cases, without prejudice to available post-proclamation remedies under existing election laws.

Section 8. *Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms.* – The COMELEC shall:

1. Maintain a public registry of all cases filed and resolved under this Act, including the names of parties, the elective positions involved, and the final disposition of each case;
2. Submit an annual report to Congress detailing enforcement, compliance, patterns of political dynasty formation, and recommendations for legislative or regulatory action; and
3. Develop and maintain a database of familial relationships among candidates and incumbent elective officials, to facilitate screening and verification of compliance with this Act.

In establishing and maintaining such registry and database, the COMELEC shall ensure full compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and related issuances, and shall disclose only such information as is reasonably necessary to promote transparency and enforcement.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The COMELEC shall promulgate the necessary rules for implementation, including mechanisms for automated screening of prohibited relationships.

Section 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations of COMELEC. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 11. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be declared as unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 12. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 13. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,