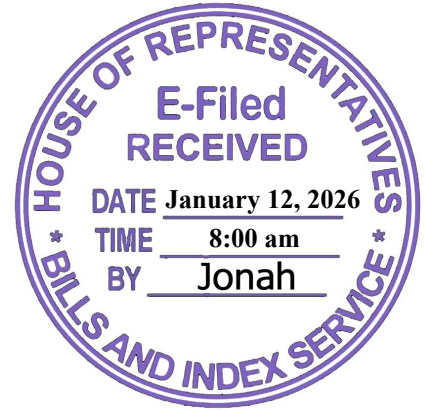




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7072



Introduced by ATTY. MIRO S. QUIMBO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution expressly declares as a State policy that political dynasties shall be prohibited, as may be defined by law (Article II, Section 26). This constitutional mandate reflects the fundamental principle that public office is a public trust and that democratic governance must rest on genuine political competition and accountability.

Despite this clear policy direction, political dynasties have become deeply entrenched in many parts of the country due to the absence of an enabling law. The vertical and horizontal concentration of political power within a few families increases the risk of abuse of authority, weakens institutional checks, and diminishes real accountability to the electorate.

The dominance of dynasties likewise undermines the people's right to free, fair, and meaningful elections. When political power is monopolized across elective positions and electoral cycles, voters are effectively deprived of real choices, and the electoral process is reduced to a contest among members of the same political clans rather than a true competition of ideas, platforms, and public service.

As a response to the absence of enabling legislation, this bill seeks to operationalize the clear constitutional mandate against political dynasties by providing a precise definition, scope, and enforceable prohibitions. It establishes

objective standards for determining prohibited political dynasty relationships and vests the Commission on Elections with the authority to prevent their formation and perpetuation through disqualification and related remedies. By translating constitutional policy into concrete legal rules, this measure addresses the regulatory vacuum that has allowed political dynasties to persist despite the express prohibition under the Constitution.

At its core, this measure seeks to open democratic space for grassroots leaders, reform advocates, and ordinary citizens who are capable, committed, and willing to serve but are excluded by entrenched political monopolies. By giving full effect to the constitutional ban on political dynasties, this bill aims to revive and reinvigorate Philippine democracy, strengthen accountability, and restore public trust in our political institutions.

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



ATTY. MIRO S. QUIMBO
Representative
Second District, Marikina City



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

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7072

Introduced by ATTY. MIRO S. QUIMBO

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 the Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as "The Anti-Political Dynasty Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to guarantee equal access and opportunity to public office and public service. Article II, Section 26 of the 1987 Constitution expressly provides: "The State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service, and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law." Towards this end, the State shall prohibit political dynasties as defined in Section 3 of this Act.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For this Act, the following terms shall mean as follows:

(a) **"Political Dynasty"** refers to the concentration, consolidation, or perpetuation of public office and political power by spouses or relatives among national or local elective offices, as well as all other elective offices that may be created by law from time to time.

(b) A **"Political Dynasty Relationship"** exists when:

(i) A spouse or relative of an incumbent national elective official holds or runs for a national elective public office;

- (ii) A spouse or relative of an incumbent local elective official holds or runs for a local elective public office within the same legislative district, province, or city;
- (iii) A spouse or relative of an incumbent national or local elective official holds or runs for public office under the party-list system;
- (iv) Spouses or relatives simultaneously run for national elective public office;
- (v) Spouses or relatives simultaneously run for local elective public office within the same legislative district, province, or city;
- (vi) Persons running for public office under the party-list system simultaneously run with spouses or relatives, whether for national or local elective public office; or
- (vii) A spouse or relative of an incumbent local elective official immediately succeeds the latter's office by election.

(c) **"National Elective Office"** refers to the Presidency, the Vice-Presidency, and the Senate of the Philippines.

(d) **"Local Elective Office"** refers to seats in the House of Representatives elected by legislative districts, and all elected officials of local government units as provided in the Local Government Code.

(e) **"Party-List System"** refers to the system of electing representatives to the House of Representatives from registered national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations or coalitions as provided under Article VI of the 1987 Constitution and Republic Act No. 7491 or the Party-List System Act.

(f) A **"Relative"** refers to a person within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity.

(g) A relationship by **"Consanguinity"** exists between persons related by blood, originating from a common ancestor. For purposes of this law, a relationship by consanguinity shall include persons related by virtue of adoption as defined in Republic Act No. 11642 also known as the "Domestic Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act".

(h) A relationship by **"Affinity"** is a relationship that a person has to the blood relatives of a spouse by virtue of marriage as defined in Article 1 of the Family Code or by virtue of a union without marriage under Articles 147 and 148 of the Family Code, regardless of gender or sexual orientation. For this Act, a relationship by affinity shall subsist despite the annulment of the marriage or divorce between the spouses.

(i) **“Spouse”** refers to the legal, common-law wife or husband or partner, divorced spouse, or a spouse in an annulled marriage, or a partner in a *de facto* relationship of an incumbent elective official.

(j) **“Divorced Spouse”** refers to a spouse who has validly celebrated marriage with a foreigner, who has thereafter validly obtained a divorce abroad, regardless if obtained by such spouse or the alien spouse.

(k) **“De facto Relationship”** refers to a relationship between two people who cohabit or declare or present themselves to the public as a couple without marriage or civil union or any other contractual arrangements similar to marriages or civil union, regardless of the sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics of the persons in the relationship. Cohabiting shall include living together despite having separate residences or houses or having real properties co-owned or registered in both their names or registered under a corporation where they are both shareholders or officers.

(l) **“Running for an Elective Office”** shall be deemed to commence upon the filing of the certificate of candidacy by a candidate with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC).

(m) **“Holding an Elective Office”** shall be deemed to commence from the moment the public official is proclaimed the winning candidate, takes the oath of office, and assumes its powers and functions. It shall also include those who succeeded or were appointed to an elective office, whether in a temporary or a permanent capacity.

SECTION 4. *Persons Covered and Prohibited Candidates.* -

(a) **National Elective Office.** No person related within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity to an incumbent national elective official shall be allowed to hold or run for national elective office.

(b) **Local Elective Office.** No person related within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity to an incumbent local elective official shall be allowed to hold or run for local elective office within the same legislative district, province, or city.

In all cases, no person related within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity to an incumbent local elective official shall immediately succeed the latter’s office by election.

(c) **Party-List System.** No person related within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity to an incumbent national or local elective official shall be allowed to hold or run under the party-list system.

In the case of relatives where the election of two or more will result in a political dynasty relationship, the same shall likewise be prohibited under this Act. In such cases, the first certificate of candidacy filed shall be respected, unless

the COMELEC finds that such certificate of candidacy was filed by a nuisance candidate as defined under the Omnibus Election Code.

SECTION 5. *Statement with the COMELEC.* - When filing a bona fide certificate of candidacy, any person running for any elective public office shall file a sworn statement with the COMELEC that he does not have a political dynasty relationship with any incumbent elective official, whether continuing his term of office or running for an elective public office.

SECTION 6. *Effect of Violation of Prohibition.* - The COMELEC shall, motu proprio or upon a verified petition filed by any interested party, deny due course to any certificate of candidacy filed in violation of this Act. The votes cast for the disqualified candidate, if any, shall not be counted and shall be deemed not counted, and neither shall such candidate be proclaimed nor allowed to assume office.

The COMELEC shall be authorized to seek the assistance of the Philippine Statistics Authority in fulfilling its obligations under this Act. For this purpose, the provisions of Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 shall not apply.

SECTION 7. *Period for Filing the Petition for Disqualification.* - Any citizen of voting age or a duly registered political party, organization, or coalition of political parties may file with the Law Department of the COMELEC a petition to disqualify a candidate after the last day for filing of certificates of candidacy and before proclamation on grounds provided for under Section 4 of this Act.

If a candidate who is disqualified under this Act is proclaimed or is allowed to assume office, the existence of his political dynasty relationship shall be a ground for disqualification in a quo warranto proceeding in the appropriate body, to be decided within six (6) months from the filing of the same.

SECTION 8. *Summary Proceedings.* - The petition shall be heard and decided summarily by the COMELEC, after due notice and hearing, within one (1) month from the filing thereof. The decision of the COMELEC shall be executory after the lapse of five (5) days from publication thereof.

SECTION 9. *Effect of Petition if Unresolved Before Completion of Canvass.* - If the petition, for reasons beyond the control of the COMELEC, cannot be decided before the completion of the canvass, the votes cast for the respondent shall be included in the counting and canvassing: *Provided*, however, that if the basis for such disqualification is clear and convincing, his or her proclamation shall be suspended even though he or she received the most number of votes in the election: *Provided further*, that in cases where the disqualified candidate has been proclaimed, he or she shall forfeit his or her right to the office.

SECTION 10. *Penalties.* - Any violation of this Act, including misrepresentation or non-disclosure of material facts as required by Section 5 and the duty to deny due course to certificates of candidacy as required under Section 6, shall be punished as an election offense, in accordance with the provisions of the Omnibus Election Code.

SECTION 11. *Applicability.* - This Act shall apply to the next succeeding elections and to all subsequent elections thereafter. An incumbent elective official who has a political dynasty relationship shall not be allowed to run in any subsequent election while such a political dynasty relationship exists.

SECTION 12. *Rules and Regulations.* - Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the COMELEC shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the implementation of the provisions thereof.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 15. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,