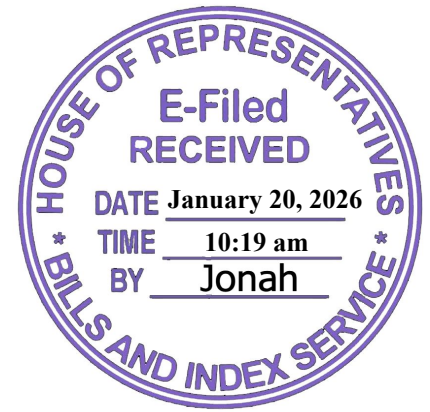


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7205**



Introduced by Representative LEILA M. DE LIMA

AN ACT
TO ENSURE GENUINE REPRESENTATION OF MARGINALIZED AND
UNDERREPRESENTED SECTORS IN THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7941
OR THE “PARTY-LIST SYSTEM ACT”

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As enshrined in the 1987 Constitution, the party-list system is a mechanism of social justice, designed to open the halls of Congress to marginalized and underrepresented sectors in the political process. Article VI, Section 5(2) of the Constitution explicitly provides that the party-list system, which comprises 20% of the total membership of the House of Representatives, shall enable “sectoral representatives” to be elected through a system of proportional representation.

In line with this, Republic Act No. 7941, or the “Party-List System Act,” was enacted to give life to this constitutional mandate to “promote proportional representation in the election of representatives to the House of Representatives through a party-list system of registered national, regional, and sectoral parties or organizations or coalitions thereof, which will enable Filipino citizens belonging to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations, and parties... to become members of the House of Representatives.”¹

Despite this clear constitutional design and statutory provision, the party-list system has, over the years, been increasingly distorted and abused.² Instead of serving as a genuine vehicle for marginalized sectors to have a platform to be heard,

¹ An Act Providing for the Election of Party-List Representatives through the Party-list system, and appropriating funds thereof [Party-List System Act], Republic Act No. 7491.

² Guda, Kenneth. (23 February 2022). Politicians, their spouses, siblings and children pack the party-list race. Philippine Center for Investigative Journalis. Retrieved from <https://pcij.org/2022/02/23/politicians-spouses-siblings-children-pack-party-list-race/>.

it has been infiltrated by traditional political elites, political dynasties, and well-funded interests who neither belong to, nor genuinely represent marginalized and underrepresented sectors.³ This has, unfortunately, converted the system into an alternative route, an easier and cheaper backdoor to Congress, for power politics and abusive circumvention of the law, undermining the very reason for its existence as an instrument of social justice and participatory democracy.⁴

The Supreme Court has consistently recognized that the party-list system serves as a tool for social justice and democratic inclusion. In *Ang Bagong Bayani-OFW Labor Party*,⁵ the Court emphasized that the system was created to benefit the marginalized and underrepresented. Even though eligibility requirements were relaxed in cases like that of *Atong Paglaum*,⁶ the Court nonetheless reiterated that the system must remain faithful to its constitutional purpose and affirmed that Congress retains the authority to refine the law to preserve this purpose and prevent its misuse.

In this regard, this bill seeks to restore the integrity of the party-list system.

First, the bill strengthens the registration process by requiring an evidentiary public hearing before the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to determine whether a party-list group truly represents marginalized and underrepresented sectors and whether its nominees genuinely belong to the sectors they seek to represent. This reform enhances transparency and accountability, consistent with the COMELEC's constitutional mandate to enforce and administer law.

Second, the bill introduces explicit disqualifications for party-list nominees who are related to incumbent elected officials, excluding local councils and barangay officials, within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, or who are or have been government contractors, or are related to government contractors within the second degree of consanguinity or affinity. These provisions give concrete effect to the Constitutional principle that public office is a public trust, and are intended to prevent conflicts of interest, political dynasties, and the control of the system by established oligarchs.

³ Tiongco, Ida. (24 February 2025). Stop abusing the party list system. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from <https://opinion.inquirer.net/181063/stop-abusing-the-party-list-system>.; Study on partylist Groups and Candidates. Kontra Daya 2022. Retrieved from <https://kontradaya.notion.site/Study-on-Partylist-Groups-and-Candidates-5c4d0ba04ef74e56a26e2c42558744f5>.

⁴ Abuse of party-list system endangers PHL democracy. (14 February 2025). BusinessMirror. Retrieved from <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/14/abuse-of-party-list-system-endangers-phl-democracy/>.; Panganiban, Artemio. (02 June 2019). Who 'bastardized' the party-list?. Philippine Daily Inquirer. Retrieved from <https://opinion.inquirer.net/121716/who-bastardized-the-party-list>.

⁵ *Ang Bagong Bayani-OFW Labor Party v. COMELEC*, G.R. No. 147589, June 26, 2001.

⁶ *Atong Paglaum, Inc. v. COMELEC*, G.R. Nos. 203766, April 2, 2013.

Third, the measure refines the qualifications and timelines for nomination to ensure that the nominees are *bona fide* members of their parties and sectors, and not mere political substitutes lacking genuine sectoral affiliation.

Fourth, the bill prohibits party-list organizations from using the names, abbreviations, or acronyms of government agencies, instrumentalities, and programs, and the titles, names, or initials of public figures and popular television and radio programs to avoid misleading the general public and misrepresenting the party-list, the government unit or program, the public figure, and the television or radio program.

Finally, the bill introduces the “manifest failure to represent” concept, defined as a failure of an incumbent party-list representative to file at least 50% of their legislative outputs that are thematically and predominantly concerning issues or matters particularly important to the concerned constituency represented by the party-list organization in each Congress, as a ground for cancellation of registration.

This bill aims to preserve the foundation of the party-list system as a genuine instrument of social justice, inclusivity, and democracy. By strengthening democratic institutions, the bill ensures that party-list seats are only reserved for those who truly belong and represent the marginalized and underrepresented sectors, thus, disabling opportunists and their political operators from weaponizing and undermining the system to further marginalize the already marginalized.

In the 20th Congress, similar bills were filed by Senator Bam Aquino and Senator Risa Hontiveros in the Senate and Representatives Antonio L. Tinio, Sarah Jane I. Elago, Renee Louise M. Co, Jose Manuel Tadeo “Chel” I. Diokno, Percival V. Cedaña, Dadah Kiram Ismula, Kaka J. Bag-ao in the House of Representatives. This bill adopts provisions from Senate Bill No. 1559 by Senator Aquino, House Bill No. 6193 by Representatives Tinio, Elago, and Co, and House Bill No. 7074 by Representatives Diokno, Cedaña, Ismula, and Bag-ao. Additionally, this bill proposes a unique set of prohibitions that harmonize the differences in the proposed prohibitions in SBN 1559 and HBN 6193.

Early approval of this measure is urged.



LEILA M. DE LIMA

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HOUSE BILL NO. 7205

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AN ACT
TO ENSURE GENUINE REPRESENTATION OF MARGINALIZED AND
UNDERREPRESENTED SECTORS IN THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7941
OR THE “PARTY-LIST SYSTEM ACT”

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 “Totoong Party-List
2 Act.”

3
4 SEC. 2. *Section 3 of Republic Act 7941, otherwise known as the “Party-List*
5 *System Act,” is hereby amended to read, as follows:*

6
7 “Section 3. *Definition of Terms.*

8
9 (a) The party-list system is a mechanism of proportional representation
10 in the election of representatives to the House of Representatives from
11 national, regional and sectoral parties or organizations or coalitions **OR**
12 **SECTORAL WINGS OF MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES** thereof
13 registered with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC). Component
14 parties or organizations of a coalition may participate independently
15 provided the coalition of which they form part does not participate in the
16 party-list system.

17
18 (b) ~~[A party means either a political party or a sectoral party or a coalition~~
19 ~~of parties.]~~ **A PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION IS A GROUP OF**
20 **CITIZENS THAT IS DULY REGISTERED WITH THE COMELEC**
21 **UNDER THIS ACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEEKING**

1 **REPRESENTATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
2 **THROUGH THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM.**

3
4 **(i) A NATIONAL PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION REFERS TO A**
5 **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION WITH A MEMBERSHIP,**
6 **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, AND POLITICAL**
7 **ADVOCACY THAT ARE NATIONAL IN SCOPE.**

8
9 **(ii) A REGIONAL PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION REFERS TO**
10 **A PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION WITH A MEMBERSHIP AND**
11 **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE FROM AT LEAST A**
12 **MAJORITY OF THE CITIES AND PROVINCES COMPRISING**
13 **ONE REGION.**

14
15 **(iii) A SECTORAL PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION REFERS TO**
16 **A PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION WITH ALL OF ITS MEMBERS**
17 **BELONGING TO OR ADVOCATING FOR ANY OF THE**
18 **SECTORS ENUMERATED IN SECTION 4 HEREOF. A**
19 **SECTORAL WING OF A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY MAY BE**
20 **A SECTORAL PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION IF IT MEETS**
21 **THE REQUIREMENTS IN THIS PARAGRAPH AND HAS ITS**
22 **OWN CONSTITUTION AND BY- LAWS, PLATFORM OR**
23 **PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT, AND SET OF OFFICERS.**

24
25 **(iv) A MULTI-SECTORAL PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION**
26 **REFERS TO A PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION WHOSE**
27 **MEMBERS BELONG TO OR ADVOCATING FOR TWO OR**
28 **MORE SECTORS ENUMERATED IN SECTION 4 HEREOF.**

29
30 **(c) A political party refers to an organized group of citizens **DULY****
31 ****REGISTERED WITH THE COMELEC** advocating an ideology or**
32 **platform, principles, and policies for the general conduct of government**
33 **and which, as the most immediate means of securing their adoption,**
34 **regularly nominates and supports certain of its leaders and members as**
35 **candidates for public office.**

36
37 **(i) It is a national **POLITICAL** party when its constituency is**
38 **spread over the geographical territory of at least a majority of the**
39 **regions.**

40
41 **(ii) It is a regional **POLITICAL** party when its constituency is**
42 **spread over the geographical territory of at least a majority of the**
43 **cities and provinces comprising the region.**

(iii) A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY REFERS TO A DULY REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED POLITICAL PARTY OR COALITION OF PARTIES WHICH THE COMELEC, AFTER DUE NOTICE AND HEARING AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW, DETERMINES TO POSSESS NATIONAL CHARACTER AND SUBSTANTIAL POLITICAL STRENGTH. A POLITICAL PARTY THAT FIELDS CANDIDATES IN THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT ELECTIONS IS A MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY.

~~(d) [A sectoral party refers to an organized group of citizens belonging to any of the sectors enumerated in Section 5 hereof whose principal advocacy pertains to the special interest and concerns of their sector.]~~ AVAILABLE SEATS REFER TO THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF SEATS RESERVED FOR THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

~~(e) [A sectoral organization refers to a group of citizens or a coalition of groups of citizens who share similar physical attributes or characteristics, employment, interests or concerns.]~~ THE WINNING MINIMUM PERCENTAGE THRESHOLD REFERS TO THE VALUE OF ONE HUNDRED PERCENT (100%) DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE SEATS. THIS VALUE SHALL BE EXPRESSED IN AT LEAST SIX (6) DECIMAL PLACES FOR ACCURACY.

~~(f) [A coalition refers to an aggrupation of duly registered national, regional, sectoral parties or organizations for political and/or election purposes.]~~ WINNING MINIMUM PERCENTAGE REFER TO REGISTERED PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATIONS THAT REACH THE WINNING MINIMUM PERCENTAGE THRESHOLD.

SEC. 3. *Section 4 the said Act is hereby amended to read as follows:*

“Section 4. *Manifestation to Participate in the Party-List System.* Any ~~[party, organization, or coalition]~~ **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION** already registered with the ~~[Commission]~~ **COMELEC UNDER THIS ACT** need not register anew. However, such ~~[party, organization, or coalition]~~ **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION** shall file with the ~~[Commission]~~ **COMELEC**, not later than ~~[ninety (90)]~~ **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120)** days before the election, a manifestation of its desire to participate in the party-list system.

SEC. 4. *Section 5 of the said Act is hereby amended to read as follows:*

“Section 5. *Registration.* Any organized group of ~~[persons]~~ **CITIZENS** may register as a ~~[party, organization or coalition]~~ **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION** for

purposes of the party-list system by filing with the COMELEC not later than ~~ninety (90)~~ **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120)** days before the election, a petition verified by its president or secretary stating its ~~[desire]~~ **INTENTION** to participate in the party-list system ~~[as a national, regional, or sectoral party or organization or a coalition of such parties or organizations]~~, attaching thereto its constitution, by-laws, platform or program of government, list of officers, coalition agreement, and other relevant information as the COMELEC may require: *Provided*, That **FOR SECTORAL OR MULTI-SECTORAL PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATIONS**, the sectors shall include labor, peasant, fisherfolk, urban poor, indigenous ~~[cultural communities]~~ **PEOPLES**, elderly, ~~[handicapped]~~ **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**, women, youth, **LGBTQIA+ (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, INTERSEX, ASEXUAL, AND OTHER IDENTITIES)**, veterans, overseas workers, ~~[and]~~ **OR** professionals, **INCLUDING THEIR SUBSECTORS**.

The COMELEC shall publish the petition in its official website and at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

NO GROUP OR ORGANIZATION, OR POLITICAL PARTY SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR REGISTRATION AS A SECTORAL OR MULTI-SECTORAL PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION UNLESS IT HAS PROVEN IN AN EVIDENTIARY PUBLIC HEARING THAT SHALL BE CONDUCTED BY THE COMELEC THAT IT TRULY REPRESENTS MARGINALIZED AND UNDERREPRESENTED SECTOR/S AND ITS NOMINEES BELONG TO OR ADVOCATING THE SECTOR/S THEY SEEK TO REPRESENT: PROVIDED, THAT COMELEC SHALL NOTIFY ALL DULY REGISTERED AND ACCREDITED PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATIONS OF THE HEARING AT LEAST TEN (10) DAYS PRIOR TO THE SAID HEARING.

The COMELEC shall, after due notice and hearing, resolve the petition within fifteen (15) days from the date it was submitted for decision but in no case not later than ninety (90) days before election.”

SEC. 5. *Section 6 of the said Act is hereby amended to read as follows:*

“Section 6. *Refusal and/or Cancellation of Registration*. The COMELEC may, *motu proprio* or upon verified complaint of any interested party, refuse or cancel, after due notice and hearing, the registration of any ~~[national, regional or sectoral party, organization or coalition]~~ **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION** on any of the following grounds:

xxx

(4) It is receiving support from any foreign government, foreign political party, **FOREIGN** foundation, **OR FOREIGN** organization, whether directly or through any of its officers or members or indirectly through third parties for partisan election purposes;

xxx

(7) ~~[It has ceased to exist for at least one (1) year; or]~~ **IT WAS DISSOLVED, ABSORBED, MERGED, OR HAS OTHERWISE CEASED TO EXIST;**

(8) It fails to participate in the last two (2) preceding elections or fails to obtain ~~[at least two per centum (2%) of the votes cast under the party list system]~~ **A PARTY-LIST SEAT** in the two (2) preceding elections ~~[for the constituency in which it has registered.];~~

(9) **IN CASES OF AN INCUMBENT PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION, IT MANIFESTLY FAILS TO REPRESENT ITS SECTOR/S OR CONSTITUENCY. "MANIFEST FAILURE TO REPRESENT" IS PRIMA FACIE ESTABLISHED WHEN, IN A TERM FOR WHICH THE ORGANIZATION IS ELECTED, ITS REPRESENTATIVE/S HAS/HAVE FAILED TO FILE AT LEAST 50% OF THEIR LEGISLATIVE OUTPUTS COMPRISING OF BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND PLENARY SPONSORSHIPS OR INTERPELLATIONS, THAT ARE THEMATICALLY AND PREDOMINANTLY CONCERNING ISSUES OR MATTERS THAT ARE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO THE CONCERNED SECTOR/SECTORS AND CONSTITUENCY. FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE COMELEC SHALL PROMULGATE RELEVANT RULES, INCLUDING PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES ON PROVING "MANIFEST FAILURE TO REPRESENT" AND ON ILLUSTRATIVE ACTS SHOWING LEGISLATIVE OUTPUTS THAT ARE THEMATICALLY AND PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO SPECIFIC SECTOR/S AND CONSTITUENCIES; OR**

(10) **ITS NAME, SHORT NAME, ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM, OR EMBLEM:**

A. IS PATTERNED AFTER, DERIVED FROM, OR CONFUSINGLY SIMILAR TO TITLES OF TELEVISION OR RADIO PROGRAMS THAT ARE EXISTING OR DEFUNCT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION;

B. IS IDENTICAL OR CONFUSINGLY SIMILAR TO THE NAMES OF EXISTING OR DEFUNCT GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE, SUBSIDY, WELFARE, DEVELOPMENT, OR OTHER PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, OR ACTIVITIES;

C. IS IDENTICAL OR CONFUSINGLY SIMILAR TO THE NAMES OF EXISTING OR DEFUNCT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES;

D. USES, REFERS TO, OR IS CONFUSINGLY SIMILAR TO THE NAMES, STAGE NAMES, INITIALS, IMAGES, LIKENESS, OR WELL-KNOWN MONICKERS OF LIVING OR DECEASED PUBLIC OFFICIALS, POLITICIANS, CELEBRITIES, ATHLETES, OR OTHER PUBLIC FIGURES; OR

1 E. OTHERWISE CREATES A FALSE IMPRESSION OF
2 ENDORSEMENT, AFFILIATION, OR CONNECTION WITH ANY
3 GOVERNMENT PROGRAM OR PUBLIC FIGURE.
4

5 ALL EXISTING REGISTERED PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATIONS WITH
6 NAMES, SHORT NAMES, ABBREVIATIONS OR ACRONYMS, OR
7 EMBLEMS THAT FALL WITHIN THE PROHIBITIONS UNDER THIS
8 SECTION SHALL BE REQUIRED TO ADOPT AND REGISTER A
9 COMPLIANT NAME, SHORT NAME, ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM, OR
10 EMBLEM WITH THE COMELEC WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE
11 EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.”
12

13 SEC. 6. *Section 7 of the said Act is hereby amended to read as follows:*
14

15 “Section 7. *Certified List of Registered Parties.* The COMELEC shall, not later
16 than ~~[sixty (60)]~~ **NINETY (90)** days before election, prepare a certified list of ~~[national,~~
17 ~~regional, or sectoral parties, organizations, or coalitions]~~ **PARTY-LIST**
18 **ORGANIZATIONS** which have applied or who have manifested their ~~[desire]~~
19 **INTENTION** to participate under the party-list system and distribute copies thereof to
20 all precincts for posting in the polling places on election day. The names of the party-
21 list nominees shall not be shown on the certified list. **THE CERTIFIED LIST SHALL**
22 **BE PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION AT LEAST**
23 **ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO (2) CONSECUTIVE WEEKS NOT LATER THAN FORTY-**
24 **FIVE (45) DAYS BEFORE THE ELECTION.”**
25

26 SEC. 7. *Section 8 of the said Act is hereby amended to read as follows:*
27

28 “Section 8. *Nomination of Party-List Representatives.* Each registered ~~[party,~~
29 ~~organization, or coalition]~~ **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION** shall submit to the
30 Commission on Elections (COMELEC) not later than ~~[forty-five (45)]~~ **SIXTY (60)** days
31 before the election a list of names, not less than ~~[five (5)]~~ **TEN (10)**, from which party-
32 list representatives shall be chosen in case it obtains the required number of votes.
33

34 **THE LIST OF NOMINEES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMELEC MUST BE**
35 **APPROVED BY THE HIGHEST DECISION-MAKING BODY OF THE PARTY-LIST**
36 **ORGANIZATION.**
37

38 A person may be nominated in one (1) list only. Only persons who have given
39 their consent in writing may be named in the list. The list shall not include any
40 candidate for any elective office or person who has lost ~~[his]~~ **THEIR** bid for an elective
41 office in the immediately preceding election, **EXCLUDING BARANGAY ELECTIONS.**
42 No change of names or alteration of the order of the nominees shall be allowed after
43 the same shall have been submitted to the COMELEC, except where the nominee
44 dies, ~~[or withdraws in writing his nomination,]~~ or becomes incapacitated, in which case

1 the name of the substitute nominees shall be placed last in the list. Incumbent
2 ~~[sectoral]~~ **PARTY-LIST** representatives in the House of Representatives who are
3 nominated in the party-list system shall not be considered resigned.

4
5 SEC. 8. *Section 9 of the said Act is hereby amended to read as follows:*

6
7 “Section 9. *Qualifications of Party-List Nominees.* No person shall be nominated
8 as party-list representative unless ~~[he is]~~ **THEY ARE** a natural-born citizen of the
9 Philippines, a registered voter, a resident of the Philippines for a period of not less
10 than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the election, able to read and write,
11 a *bona fide* member of the party or organization which ~~[he]~~ **THEY** seek~~[s]~~ to represent
12 for at least ninety (90) days preceding the day of ~~[the election]~~ **THE FILING OF THEIR**
13 **ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION**, and is at least twenty-five (25) years of age on the
14 day of the election. In case of a nominee of the youth sector, ~~[he]~~ **THEY** must at least
15 be twenty-five (25) but not more than thirty (30) years of age on the day of the election.
16 Any youth sectoral representative who attains the age of thirty (30) during ~~[his]~~ **THEIR**
17 term shall be allowed to continue in office until the expiration of ~~[his]~~ **THEIR** term.

18
19 **SECTION 9-A. PROHIBITION AGAINST POLITICAL DYNASTIES. NO**
20 **PERSON MAY BECOME OR SUBSTITUTE FOR A PARTY-LIST NOMINEE**
21 **OR OTHERWISE BECOME A PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE IF THEY**
22 **ARE:**

- 23 **A. A SPOUSE OR A RELATIVE WITHIN THE FOURTH DEGREE**
24 **OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY OF AN INCUMBENT**
25 **PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SENATOR, DISTRICT OR**
26 **PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE, GOVERNOR, VICE**
27 **GOVERNOR, MAYOR, OR VICE MAYOR;**
28 **B. A SPOUSE OR RELATIVE WITHIN THE FOURTH DEGREE OF**
29 **CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY OF A NOMINEE OF ANY**
30 **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION OR A CANDIDATE FOR ANY**
31 **ELECTIVE PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE SAME ELECTION,**
32 **EXCLUDING POSITIONS IN LOCAL COUNCILS AND**
33 **BARANGAYS; OR**
34 **C. SUCCEEDING TO THE OFFICE OF A PARTY-LIST**
35 **REPRESENTATIVE WHO IS THEIR SPOUSE OR RELATIVE**
36 **WITHIN THE FOURTH DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR**
37 **AFFINITY.**

38
39 **SECTION 9-B. PROHIBITION AGAINST GOVERNMENT**
40 **CONTRACTORS. NO PARTY-LIST NOMINEE OR REPRESENTATIVE OR**
41 **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION SHALL, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY:**

- 42 **A. HOLD CONTRACTS OR SUB-CONTRACTS TO SUPPLY THE**
43 **GOVERNMENT OR ANY OF ITS DIVISIONS, SUBDIVISIONS,**

1 OR INSTRUMENTALITIES, WITH GOODS OR SERVICES OR
2 TO PERFORM CONSTRUCTION OR OTHER WORKS;

3 B. SERVE AS A PARTNER, DIRECTOR, OFFICER, MEMBER, OR
4 STOCKHOLDER OF ANY CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP,
5 OR ENTITY THAT HOLDS ANY SUCH CONTRACT OR SUB-
6 CONTRACT AS IN THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING
7 PARAGRAPH;

8 C. POSSESS ANY BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP, PECUNIARY
9 INTEREST, OR FINANCIAL STAKE IN ANY SUCH CONTRACT
10 OR SUB-CONTRACT AS IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS
11 OR IN ANY PARTNERSHIP, CORPORATION, OR ENTITY
12 HOLDING SUCH CONTRACT OR SUB-CONTRACT; OR

13 D. BE A SPOUSE OR A RELATIVE WITHIN THE SECOND
14 DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY OF A
15 PARTNER, DIRECTOR, OFFICER, MEMBER, OR
16 STOCKHOLDER OF ANY CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP,
17 OR ENTITY THAT HOLDS ANY CONTRACT OR SUB-
18 CONTRACT AS IN PARAGRAPH A OF SECTION 9-5:
19

20 *PROVIDED*, THAT NON-STOCK, NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS
21 ARE EXCLUDED FROM THIS PROHIBITION.

22 **SECTION 9-C. PETITION FOR DISQUALIFICATION OF PARTY-**
23 **LIST NOMINEE.** THE COMMISSION MAY, *MOTU PROPIO* OR UPON A
24 VERIFIED PETITION, REMOVE OR DISQUALIFY, AFTER DUE NOTICE
25 AND HEARING, A PARTY-LIST NOMINEE ON THE GROUND THAT THEY
26 DO NOT POSSESS ANY OF THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A PARTY-LIST
27 NOMINEE OR THAT THEY POSSESS ANY OF THE PROHIBITIONS.”

28
29 SEC. 9. *Section 10 of the said Act is hereby amended to read as follows:*
30

31 “Section 10. *Manner of Voting.* Every voter shall be entitled to two (2) votes
32 **FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:** the first is a vote for candidate for
33 member of the House of Representatives in [his] **THE** legislative district, and the
34 second, a vote for the [party, organizations, or coalition he wants] **PARTY-LIST**
35 **ORGANIZATION THEY WANT** represented in the House of Representatives **IN THE**
36 **PARTY-LIST SYSTEM:** *Provided*, That a vote cast for a [party, sectoral organization,
37 or coalition] **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION** not entitled to be voted for shall not be
38 counted[. *Provided*, finally, That the first election under the party list system shall be
39 held in May 1998] **AND SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THE COMPUTATION OF**
40 **THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST FOR THE PARTY-LIST ELECTION.**

41 xxx”
42

43 SEC. 10. *Section 11 of the said Act is hereby amended to read as follows:*

1
2 “Section 11. *Number of Party-List Representatives.* The party-list
3 representatives shall constitute twenty per centum (20%) of the total number of the
4 members of the House of Representatives including those under the party-list.

5
6 xxx

7
8 In determining the allocation of seats for the second vote, the following
9 procedure shall be observed:

10
11 (a) The ~~[parties, organizations, and coalitions]~~ **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATIONS**
12 shall be ranked from the highest to the lowest based on the number of votes they
13 garnered during the elections.

14
15 (b) The ~~[parties, organizations, and coalitions]~~ **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATIONS**
16 receiving at least ~~[two percent (2%)]~~ **THE WINNING MINIMUM PERCENTAGE**
17 **THRESHOLD** of the total votes cast for the party-list system shall be entitled to one
18 seat each: *Provided*, That those garnering more than ~~[two percent (2%)]~~ **THE**
19 **WINNING MINIMUM PERCENTAGE THRESHOLD** of the votes shall be entitled to
20 additional seats in proportion to their total number of votes: *Provided*, finally, That each
21 ~~[party, organization, and coalition]~~ **PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATION** shall be entitled to
22 not more than three (3) seats.

23
24 SEC. 11. *A new Section 18 shall be inserted to the said Act as follows, with the*
25 *provisions below it renumbered accordingly:*

26
27 “**SECTION 18. VOTER EDUCATION.** THE COMELEC, THROUGH, WITH,
28 AND IN SUPPORT OF ACCREDITED CITIZENS’ ARMS, SHALL CARRY OUT A
29 CONTINUING AND SYSTEMATIC CAMPAIGN THROUGH PUBLICATIONS,
30 RADIO, TELEVISION, AND OTHER MEDIA FORMS, INCLUDING SOCIAL MEDIA,
31 AS WELL AS THROUGH SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA, FORA, AND OTHER NON-
32 TRADITIONAL MEANS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND FULLY INFORM THE
33 ELECTORATE ABOUT THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM INCLUDING HOW TO CAST
34 THE VOTE THEREFOR.”

35
36 SEC. 12. *The new Section 19, formerly Section 18, of the said Act is hereby*
37 *amended to read as follows:*

38
39 “Section ~~[18]~~ **19. Rules and Regulations.** The COMELEC, **IN CONSULTATION**
40 **WITH PARTY-LIST ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, AND**
41 **MEMBERS OF THE ACADEME**, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
42 regulations **IN THE FORM OF RESOLUTIONS** as may be necessary to carry out the
43 purposes of this Act.”

1 SEC. 13. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
2 or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
3 and effect.

4
5 SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees,
6 presidential proclamations, letters of instruction, rules and regulations, or parts thereof
7 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
8 accordingly.

9
10 SEC. 15. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
12 Philippines.

Approved,