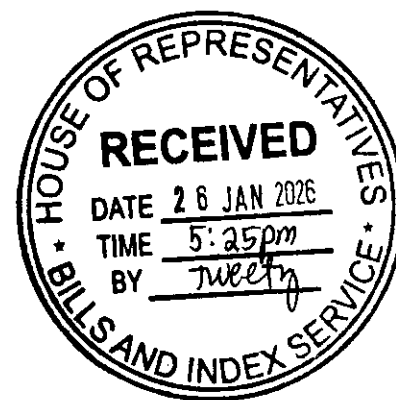




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7363

Introduced by Representative Ann Matibag

**AN ACT PROMOTING WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION IN AND
BY POLITICAL PARTIES, GIVING INCENTIVES THEREFOR, CREATING THE
WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES EMPOWERMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite constitutional guarantees and progressive legislation such as Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women, women in the Philippines continue to be significantly underrepresented in political parties and elective offices at all levels of government. While Filipino women have long played visible and influential roles in community organizing, civil society, and social movements, these contributions have not translated into equitable participation in formal political institutions, particularly within political parties that serve as the primary gatekeepers to electoral power.

Persistent structural and systemic barriers hinder women's political participation. These include gender bias in candidate selection, unequal access to campaign resources, weak internal party support mechanisms, and political cultures that normalize exclusion, harassment, and discrimination against women. As a result, women candidates—especially those from marginalized and disadvantaged sectors—face disproportionate challenges in entering, competing, and succeeding in electoral politics.

This bill seeks to address these realities by strengthening women's political participation and representation in and by political parties. It institutionalizes gender-balanced representation in party leadership and candidate nomination, ensures that public incentives provided to political parties translate into direct, measurable, and accountable support for women candidates, and mandates the development of clear women and gender and development agendas within political

parties. In particular, it guarantees that during election years, at least fifty percent (50%) of campaign-related funds released under this measure are allocated exclusively to the lawful election expenses of women candidates.

By combining affirmative measures, capacity-building, financial support, and transparency mechanisms, this measure operationalizes the constitutional mandate to recognize women as equal partners in nation-building. It affirms that women's meaningful participation in politics is not merely a matter of representation, but a democratic imperative essential to inclusive governance, responsive policymaking, and sustainable national development.

Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. ANN MATIBAG
First District, Laguna



Republic of the Philippines

House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7363

Introduced by Representative Ann Matibag

**AN ACT PROMOTING WOMEN PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION IN AND
BY POLITICAL PARTIES, GIVING INCENTIVES THEREFOR, CREATING THE
WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES EMPOWERMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
assembled:*

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Women Participation and Representation in Political Parties Act.*”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – Pursuant to Section 14, Article II and Section 14, Article XIII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, and consistent with Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to recognize women as equal partners in political life and to ensure their full, meaningful, and effective participation in political parties and electoral processes.

The State shall adopt measures that promote women’s leadership, address structural and systemic barriers to women’s political participation, and provide incentives and institutional support to political parties that actively advance women’s participation and equitable representation in leadership and candidate nomination.

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

(a) Lawful election expenses and expenditures refer to expenses incurred in relation to the electoral campaign of a woman candidate, including payments of money or anything of value intended to influence election results, in accordance with existing election laws. For purposes of this Act, the term shall refer exclusively to campaign expenditures of women candidates.

(b) Certified political party refers to a political party qualified and certified by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), with the assistance of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), to receive incentives under this Act.

(c) Disclosure requirement refers to the duty of political parties and women candidates to publicly disclose incentives received and expenditures made pursuant to this Act.

(d) Woman member of a political party refers to a woman who is a member in good standing of a political party and who has complied with the requirements of party membership, including the payment of membership dues.

(e) Political party refers to a political party, party-list, or organized group of persons duly registered with the COMELEC that nominates and supports candidates for public office and advocates a political platform, including women's empowerment.

(f) Women in Political Parties Empowerment Fund refers to the fund established under this Act for the development and implementation of women and gender and development agendas and for the campaign support of women candidates.

Any ambiguity in the interpretation of the terms under this Act shall be resolved in favor of promoting the full and equal participation of women in political parties and electoral processes.

SEC. 4. Development and Implementation of a Women and Gender and Development Agenda. – Political parties shall craft and implement a clear women and gender and development agenda consistent with their party philosophy and ideals. This agenda shall form part of the requirements for accreditation by the COMELEC. The PCW shall provide technical assistance in its development.

SEC. 5. Participation and Representation in Political Parties. – Women representation in political parties refers to the integration of women in party leadership and internal policy-making structures. The percentage of either women or men in such structures shall not be less than forty percent (40%) nor more than sixty percent (60%). Compliance with this requirement shall be certified by the COMELEC.

SEC. 6. Participation and Representation by Political Parties. – Political parties shall ensure that women constitute not less than forty percent (40%) nor more than sixty percent (60%) of their official nominees for elective positions. Substitution of women nominees by male candidates shall not be allowed. Any violation of this provision shall result in the return of funds released under this Act.

Political parties participating in the party-list system are encouraged to designate a woman as their first nominee.

SEC. 7. Incentives for Women Representation in and by Political Parties. – Certified political parties that comply with Sections 5 and 6 of this Act shall be entitled to access the Women in Political Parties Empowerment Fund for training, capacity-building, and campaign support for women candidates.

SEC. 8. Women in Political Parties Empowerment Fund. – There is hereby established a Women in Political Parties Empowerment Fund, which shall be used exclusively for the following purposes:

(a) Training and capacity-building programs for women members; and

(b) Campaign activities of women candidates.

At least five percent (5%) of a political party's total budget shall be allocated to its women and gender and development agenda as a condition for the release of funds under this Act.

Amounts released from the Fund during an election year shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Sixty percent (60%) shall be used for campaign expenditures: Provided, That not less than fifty percent (50%) of such campaign expenditures shall be allocated exclusively and directly to the lawful election expenses and expenditures of women candidates; and

(2) Forty percent (40%) shall be used for continuing training and capacity-building programs for women members.

Political parties shall maintain a separate financial account for all amounts received under this Act.

SEC. 9. Allowable Women and Gender and Development Activities. – The COMELEC and the PCW shall issue guidelines to ensure that women and gender and development programs include mechanisms that promote a safe and enabling environment for women's political participation, including the prevention of discrimination and gender-based harassment.

SEC. 10. Certification. – Political parties that comply with the requirements of this Act may apply for certification from the COMELEC, in coordination with the PCW, to avail of the incentives and privileges provided herein.

SEC. 11. Full Disclosure. – Certified political parties shall submit to the PCW, the COMELEC, and the Commission on Audit a public disclosure of all funds received and expenditures made under this Act at the end of every fiscal year.

SEC. 12. Failure to Comply with Disclosure Requirements. – Failure to comply with the disclosure requirements under this Act shall result in the suspension of the political party from receiving funds for one (1) year and the forfeiture of related privileges.

SEC. 13. Appropriations. – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 14. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the COMELEC, in coordination with the PCW and relevant stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 15. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. Repealing Clause. – All laws, rules, regulations, and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 17. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.