

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7412**



Introduced by **Rep. WOWO FORTES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to clean, adequate, and well-maintained public restrooms is a fundamental component of public health, safety, and overall community well-being. Yet, in many crowded public places across the country, long queues outside women's restrooms have become a common and persistent problem. This disparity is not merely an inconvenience; it reflects a systemic issue in infrastructure planning that disproportionately affects women of all ages.

Biological, social, and practical factors contribute to longer restroom usage times for women. Meanwhile, traditional building codes often fails to account for these realities. The result is a design imbalance that leads to persistent queuing for female restrooms, while male restrooms remain relatively unburdened.

Therefore, this bill seeks to address this inequity by adopting a rational and humane standard: a 2:1 ratio of female to male toilets or water closets in crowded public places. This approach is modeled after parity policies practiced abroad, where such reforms have significantly improved restroom accessibility and reduced crowding and wait times. By ensuring that facilities are planned based on actual usage patterns, public establishments can provide fair, dignified, and efficient restroom access for all.

Moreover, this measure mandates the inclusion of at least one gender-neutral toilet within crowded public places. This requirement promotes inclusivity and provides essential restroom access to individuals who may not feel comfortable or safe using gender-segregated facilities.

This bill ultimately aims to promote fairness, inclusivity, and efficiency in public infrastructure. By adopting a toilet parity policy, we take a significant step toward ensuring that public spaces are responsive to the needs of all Filipinos and reflective of modern, equitable standards in urban planning and facility design.

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


ATTY. WOWO FORTES
Representative

Second District, Province of Sorsogon

Twentieth Congress of the
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AN ACT INSTITUTING A “TOILET PARITY POLICY” AT CROWDED PUBLIC PLACES, SUCH AS MALLS, SCHOOLS, STADIUMS, CONVENTION CENTERS, PUBLIC PARKS, TRANSPORTATION HUBS, AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS

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

SEC. 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Toilet Parity Policy Act”.

SEC. 2. *Definition of Crowded Public Places.* – “Crowded Public Places” shall refer to establishments, facilities, or venues, whether publicly or privately owned, that are regularly accessible or open to the general public and are capable of accommodating a large number of people at any given time. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Commercial Complexes – Include shopping malls, department stores, supermarkets, and other similar locations;
- b. Educational Institutions – Include schools, universities, training centers, and other similar locations;
- c. Sports and Entertainment Venues – Include stadiums, arenas, gymnasiums, theaters, cinemas, concert halls, and other similar locations;
- d. Convention Centers – Include convention centers, trade halls, fairgrounds, and other similar locations;
- e. Public Parks – Include public parks, amusement parks, theme parks, and other similar locations;
- f. Transportation Hubs – Include airports, seaports, bus terminals, train stations, and other similar locations; and
- g. Any other similar establishment.

SEC. 3. *Female to Male Toilet Ratio.* – The ratio between the total number of toilets or water closets for females shall be two (2) toilets or water closets for females for every one (1) toilet, water closet, or urinal built for males at crowded public places.

SEC. 4. *Gender-Neutral Toilets.* – In addition to the required ratio of female and male toilets or water closets, all crowded public places shall provide at least one (1) gender-neutral toilet within their premises.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the promulgation of this Act, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other relevant stakeholders shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,