

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 7413

Introduced by

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

1 The Constitution unequivocally declares that public office is a public trust and
2 guarantees equal access to opportunities for public service to all citizens. Consistent
3 with this principle, Article II, Section 26 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution expressly
4 mandates the State to prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law. This
5 provision recognizes that the concentration of political power within a few families
6 undermines democratic representation, weakens political competition, and erodes
7 public confidence in government.

8 Despite this clear constitutional directive, no comprehensive enabling law has been
9 enacted to give full effect to this mandate. As a result, political dynasties continue
10 to dominate both national and local elective positions, limiting opportunities for
11 capable and deserving Filipinos and perpetuating inequality in political participation.

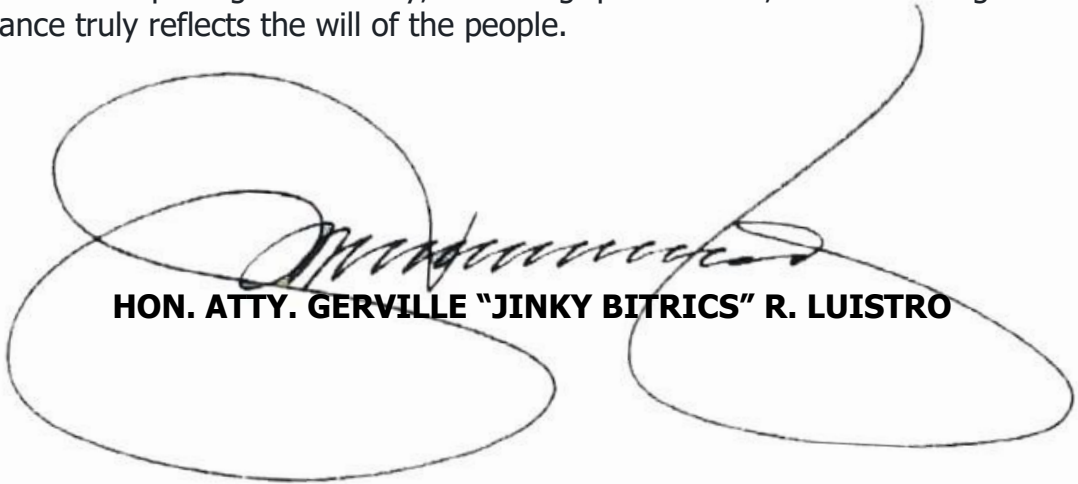
12 The records of the 1986 Constitutional Commission deliberations reveal that the
13 framers were keenly aware of both the dangers posed by political dynasties and
14 the need to balance reform with democratic choice. Commissioner Christian Monsod
15 cautioned against an overly broad or vague prohibition, emphasizing that any
16 restriction must be carefully defined, as it necessarily disqualifies individuals and
17 limits electoral options. He underscored that the people's right to choose freely
18 must be respected and that the task of defining political dynasties should be left to
19 Congress, which is better equipped to craft clear, fair, and enforceable standards
20 through legislation.

1 In the same deliberations, Commissioner Jose Nollado articulated that a prohibition
2 against political dynasties, when properly defined by law, would not constrict
3 democracy but instead expand it. He explained that political dynasties, by their
4 nature, restrict political opportunities, particularly for poor but deserving candidates
5 who lack the resources, political machinery, and name recall enjoyed by entrenched
6 families.

7 In response to this long-standing constitutional command, this measure, entitled
8 the **"ELECTORAL REFORM AND FAIR REPRESENTATION ACT OF 2026,"**
9 seeks to operationalize the prohibition against political dynasties by regulating the
10 concurrent and successive holding of elective positions by members of the same
11 family at the same level of government, whether national or local. It establishes
12 clear definitions, reasonable limitations, and enforceable safeguards designed to
13 prevent the undue concentration of political power, while continuing to respect the
14 electorate's right to choose among qualified candidates.

15 Moreover, this measure is consistent with the reform agenda articulated by
16 President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who, in 2025, directed Congress to prioritize anti-
17 corruption measures, including legislation that gives life to constitutional principles
18 long recognized but never fully enforced. By promoting political fairness,
19 accountability, and broader participation in governance, this bill contributes to the
20 strengthening of democratic institutions.

21 In sum, this proposed measure gives life to a long-standing constitutional mandate,
22 advances meaningful political reform, and affirms the principle that public office
23 must remain accessible to all and not monopolized by a few. Its passage is a vital
24 step toward deepening democracy, restoring public trust, and ensuring that
25 governance truly reflects the will of the people.



HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7413

Introduced by

HON. ATTY. GERVILLE "JINKY BITRICS" R. LUISTRO

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE CONCURRENT AND SUCCESSIVE HOLDING OF
MULTIPLE ELECTIVE POSITIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE SAME FAMILY,
IMPOSING LIMITATIONS ON FAMILY-BASED CANDIDACIES, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

3
4 SECTION 1. ***Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “**ELECTORAL**
5 **REFORM AND FAIR REPRESENTATION ACT OF 2026.**”

6
7 SECTION 2. ***Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared the policy of the
8 State to uphold the constitutional mandate under Article II, Section 26 of the 1987
9 Philippine Constitution, which guarantees equal access to opportunities for public
10 service and directs the prohibition of political dynasties as may be defined by law.
11 In furtherance of this mandate, the State shall promote merit, fairness, and genuine
12 political competition, prevent the concentration of political power within families,
13 and ensure that public office remains a public trust open to all qualified citizens.

14
15 SECTION 3. ***Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act:

- 16
17 (a) “Political dynasty” shall refer to successive or simultaneous
18 concentration, consolidation, or perpetuation of elective public
19 offices, within the same level of government by the same family.
20

- 1 (b) "Elective Position" shall refer to any office filled by popular vote,
2 whether exercised at the national or local level.
3
- 4 (c) "National-Level Positions" shall refer to the Executive positions of the
5 President and Vice-President, as well as the Members of the
6 Legislative Branch.
7
- 8 (d) "Local-level Positions" shall refer to the positions of Provincial
9 Government Officials, positions of City and Municipal officials, as well
10 as positions of the Barangay officials.
11
- 12 (e) "Members of the Same Family" shall refer to persons related within
13 the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity whether full blood
14 or half-blood.
15
- 16 (f) "Candidate for Elective Position" shall refer to a person running for
17 an Elective Office whose candidacy has not been withdrawn,
18 cancelled, or denied due course under existing election laws.
19
- 20 (g) "Prohibited Political Dynasty Relationship" shall exist when a member
21 of the same family is an incumbent elective official in the same level.
22
- 23 (h) "Running for an Elective Office" shall exist upon the filing of the
24 certificate of candidacy by a candidate with the Commission on
25 Elections (COMELEC)
26
- 27 (i) "Holding an Elective Office" shall exist when a candidate on an
28 elective position is proclaimed as the winning candidate, has taken the
29 oath of office, and has assumed its powers and functions.
30

31 SECTION 4. **Categorization.** - Elective Positions are classified as either
32 national-level or local-level positions, where *national-level positions* are those
33 exercised at the national government level with nationwide or multi-district
34 jurisdiction, while *local-level positions* are those exercised within specific territorial
35 local government units which involves local governance and representation.
36

37 SECTION 5. **National Level Positions.** – National-level positions shall
38 include the positions of the President, Vice-President, Senators, District and Party-
39 list Representatives.
40

41 SECTION 6. **Local Level Positions.** - Local-level positions shall include the
42 positions of the Governor, Vice Governor, Members of the Sangguniang
43 Panlalawigan, City Mayor, City Vice-Mayor, Members of the Sangguniang
44 Panlungsod, Municipal Mayor, Municipal Vice-Mayor, Members of the Sangguniang
45 Bayan, Punong Barangay and Members of the Sangguniang Barangay.
46

47 SECTION 7. **Regulation of Family-Based Candidacies.** – In order to
48 prevent the undue concentration of political influence, a person running for an

1 elective office shall file a sworn statement with the COMELEC that his or her family
2 shall not field more than one candidate for an elective position exercised at the
3 same level of government position during any election period. The filing of a
4 certificate of candidacy by a family member for a particular level shall preclude
5 additional candidacies of the same family at that level for the duration of the
6 election.

7
8 SECTION 8. ***Persons Covered; Prohibited Political Dynasty***
9 ***Relationship.*** – No two or more members of the same family shall concurrently
10 hold elective positions exercised at the same level of government position, whether
11 national or local, regardless of the manner by which such positions are assumed.

12
13 SECTION 9. ***Anti-Circumvention.*** – The prohibitions under this Act shall
14 apply notwithstanding any succession, appointment, substitution, or assumption of
15 office that results in the simultaneous exercise of authority at the same level of
16 government by members of the same family.

17
18 SECTION 10. ***Penalty.*** – Any violation of this Act or the Prohibited Political
19 Dynasty Relationship shall be a ground for disqualification, cancellation of certificate
20 of candidacy, or removal from office in accordance with existing election laws.

21
22 SECTION 11. ***Implementing Authority.*** – The Commission on Elections
23 COMELEC shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this
24 Act.

25
26 SECTION 12. ***Disqualification by COMELEC.*** - The COMELEC shall, *motu*
27 *proprio* or through the verified petition of any voting citizen, have the power to
28 disqualify a candidate after the last day of filing for certificates of candidacy until
29 the proclamation and taking of oath of the victorious candidate.

30
31 SECTION 13. ***Summary Proceedings.*** – The petition shall be heard and
32 decided summarily, after due notice and hearing, within one (1) month from the
33 filing thereof. The decision of the proceedings shall be immediately executory.

34
35 SECTION 14. ***Failure to Resolve.*** – If the COMELEC fails to resolve the
36 petition or cannot be decided before the completion of the canvass, the votes cast
37 for the candidate shall be included in the counting and canvassing.

38
39 SECTION 15. ***Applicability.*** – This Act shall be applicable to the next
40 election and to all subsequent elections thereafter.

41
42 SECTION 16. ***Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days after the
43 effectivity of this Act, the COMELEC shall promulgate the rules and regulations for
44 the implementation of this Act.

45
46 SECTION 17. ***Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared
47 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected.
48

1 SECTION 18. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, or parts
2 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

3
4 SECTION 19. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
5 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6
7 Approved,