

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7467



**Introduced by Representative JB BERNOS
and Representative CHING BERNOS**

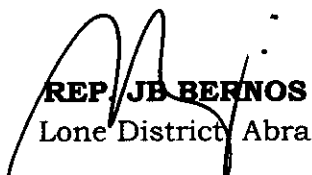
**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE AUTOMATIC SUNSET REVIEW OF LAWS,
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution declares that public office is a public trust and mandates that government shall at all times be accountable to the people. In a rapidly changing society, laws, government programs, and even entire agencies may become outdated, ineffective, duplicative, or unnecessarily burdensome. Yet, most continue indefinitely without any mandatory mechanism for systematic review and justification. At present, congressional oversight is discretionary and uneven. While hearings, audits, and inquiries are conducted, there is no uniform, binding requirement that laws, programs, and agencies periodically justify their continued existence, effectiveness, and cost. As a result, obsolete or inefficient measures persist, consuming public funds and regulatory authority without clear evidence that they still serve the public interest.

This bill seeks to institutionalize good governance and public accountability by establishing an automatic sunset review system. Instead of presuming permanence, the measure requires periodic, mandatory congressional review and affirmative renewal of laws, programs, and agencies. It shifts the burden to government to prove continued necessity, effectiveness, and fiscal responsibility, thereby strengthening transparency, discipline, and evidence-based policymaking

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


REP. JB BERNOS
Lone District Abra


REP. CHING B. BERNOS
SOLID NORTH Party-List

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Sunset Review Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure that laws, government programs, and public agencies remain effective, necessary, and responsive to the needs of the people. The State shall institutionalize periodic, mandatory review to promote accountability, fiscal responsibility, and evidence-based governance.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are defined:

1. Sunset Review – refers to the mandatory evaluation of a law, government program, or agency after a specified period to determine whether it should be continued, amended, or terminated.

SEC. 4. Automatic Sunset Review. – All laws creating regulatory regimes or government programs, government programs funded through the General Appropriations Act, and government agencies created by statute shall be subject to automatic sunset review unless expressly exempted under this Act.

SEC. 5. Review Period. – Unless otherwise provided by law:

- (a) Laws and government programs shall be subject to sunset review five (5) years after effectivity or commencement; and

- (b) Government agencies created by statute shall be subject to sunset review ten (10) years after creation.

SEC. 6. Effect of Sunset Review. – Upon reaching the applicable review period, the covered law, program, or agency shall be subject to mandatory congressional review and shall continue only upon affirmative renewal, amendment, or reauthorization by Congress.

SEC. 7. Joint Congressional Sunset Review Committee. – There is hereby created a Joint Congressional Sunset Review Committee composed of an equal number of Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, which shall oversee and conduct sunset review under this Act.

SEC. 8. Review Criteria. – Sunset reviews shall consider, among others, the achievement of objectives, cost-effectiveness, fiscal impact, continued necessity, overlap with existing laws or agencies, and impact on the public.

SEC. 9. Exemptions. – Constitutional bodies, the Judiciary, and laws implementing constitutional rights shall be exempt from automatic sunset review unless Congress provides otherwise

SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Chairperson of the Joint Congressional Sunset Review Committee, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, Commission on Audit, and National Economic and Development Authority, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act..

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. – If any portions or provisions of this Act are declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining portions or provisions not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,