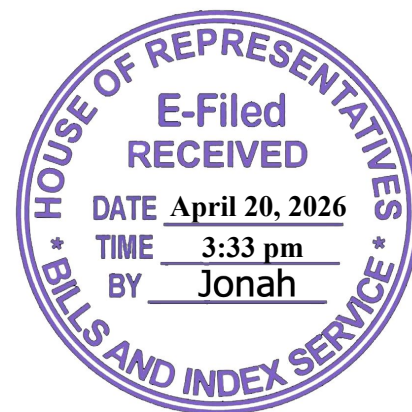


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City
Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 8884

Introduced by Honorable Representatives
JOSE MANUEL TADEO “CHEL” I. DIOKNO (Akbayan Partylist)
PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA (Akbayan Partylist)
DADAH KIRAM ISMULA (Akbayan Partylist)
KAKA BAG-AO (Dinagat Islands)

AN ACT
IMPLEMENTING LOCAL SECTORAL REPRESENTATION AND
PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE
THROUGH THE PEOPLE’S COUNCIL IN EVERY PROVINCE,
CITY, AND MUNICIPALITY, PRESCRIBING THE COUNCIL’S
POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article X, Section 9 of the 1987 Constitution mandates that the legislative bodies of local government units (LGUs) include sectoral representation, as may be prescribed by law. In recognition of this constitutional directive, the Local Government Code of 1991 introduced local sectoral representation in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan,¹ Sangguniang Panlungsod,² and Sangguniang Bayan³ to strengthen

¹ Section 467 (b), Republic Act No. 7160, Local Government Code of 1991.

² Section 457 (b), Republic Act No. 7160, Local Government Code of 1991.

³ Section 446 (b), Republic Act No. 7160, Local Government Code of 1991.

democratic participation and ensure that traditionally underrepresented sectors are given a voice in local governance. Under this framework, three sectoral representatives representing women, workers, and a third sector, as determined, shall become members of the local legislative body.⁴

However, despite this clear constitutional mandate, local sectoral representation remains largely unimplemented. The Local Government Code of 1991 does not specify the procedure and mechanisms for selecting the sectoral representatives. Instead, it delegated this responsibility to the Commission on Elections,⁵ which has not yet promulgated the necessary rules and regulations for this purpose. In the absence of these rules, certain LGUs have attempted to fill this gap by establishing people's councils through local ordinances as a means of facilitating civil society participation in local governance.

While these initiatives demonstrate the willingness of LGUs to encourage participatory governance, the absence of a national framework has resulted in inconsistent implementation across the country. Without a clear and standardized system, meaningful sectoral representation remains uneven and vulnerable to issues of transparency, accessibility, and political interference.

This bill, therefore, seeks to fully implement the constitutional mandate on local sectoral representation by institutionalizing the people's

⁴ Section 41(c), Republic Act No. 7160, Local Government Code of 1991.

⁵ *Ibid.*

council as the formal mechanism for sectoral participation in every province, city, and municipality. By integrating accredited civil society organizations, nongovernment organizations, and people's organizations into the legislative process, this measure aims to amplify sector-based concerns, strengthen democratic participation, promote inclusive social reform, and encourage local organizing.



JOSE MANUEL TADEO
“CHEL” I. DIOKNO
Akbayan Representative



PERCIVAL V. CENDAÑA
Akbayan Representative



DADAH KIRAM ISMULA
Akbayan Representative



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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act will be known as the “People’s Council
2 Act.”

3 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** The State affirms its duty to guarantee
4 meaningful participation of citizens in local governance through local
5 sectoral representation. It is likewise the policy of the State that:

6 a. Local sectoral representation is a fundamental component of
7 democratic local governance and must be fully realized in all local
8 government units.

9 b. Local sectoral representation shall be effectively implemented
10 through the institutionalization of the People’s Council in every

1 province, city, and municipality as a permanent and recognized
2 participatory body.

3 c. The People's Council serves as a mechanism to ensure organized,
4 inclusive, and sustained participation of civil society organizations
5 and basic sectors in local governance.

6 d. Sectoral Representatives, through the People's Council, must be
7 empowered to meaningfully participate in local legislative processes,
8 development planning, budgeting, and monitoring of programs and
9 projects.

10 e. Adequate administrative, technical, and institutional support is
11 needed to strengthen the capacity, independence, and effectiveness of
12 the People's Council and its Sectoral Representatives.

13 CHAPTER I

14 General Provisions

15 ***Section 3. Definition of Terms.*** For purposes of this Act, the following
16 terms are defined as follows:

17 a. **Local Sectoral Representation** - refers to a system whereby
18 representatives of identified local sectors are selected to sit as
19 members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang
20 Panlungsod, and Sangguniang Bayan. These Sectoral
21 Representatives shall participate in the enactment of local legislation
22 and the formulation of policies addressing the concerns of the sectors
23 they represent.

24 b. **Accredited Organization** – refers to a civil society organization,
25 nongovernment organization, or people's organization that is
26 registered with the Department of the Interior and Local Government
27 (DILG) for purposes of membership in the People's Council and
28 participation in local sectoral representation.

1 (i) **Civil Society Organization (CSO)** - refers to a non-state,
2 non-profit association organized for the purpose of promoting
3 social welfare, development, or the advancement of public
4 interests. This includes, but is not limited to nongovernment
5 organizations, people's organizations, civic organizations,
6 community-based organizations, faith-based organizations,
7 cooperatives, labor unions and federations, workers'
8 associations, homeowners associations, social movements,
9 professional groups, and business groups engaged in
10 community or development work.

11 (ii) **Nongovernment Organization (NGO)** - refers to a non-
12 stock, non-profit organization that works with different sectors
13 and communities to promote their welfare and development,
14 and which may provide services, advocacy, or capacity-building
15 support to people's organizations and communities. Social
16 development organizations, foundations, and independent
17 research institutions fall under this category.

18 (iii) **People's Organization (PO)** - refers to an association of
19 residents within a barangay or group of barangays, established
20 to promote public interest and characterized by an identifiable
21 leadership structure and membership. People's organizations
22 are formed among the marginalized or underrepresented
23 sectors, such as workers, women, farmers, fisherfolk, persons
24 with disabilities, senior citizens, victims of calamities and
25 disasters, youth, students, children, and the urban poor.

26 c. **People's Council** - refers to the institutional body composed of
27 accredited organizations within a local government unit. This shall

1 serve as a platform for citizen engagement and act as the mechanism
2 for the exercise of local sectoral representation under this Act.

3 d. **Sectoral Assembly** - refers to a gathering of accredited organizations
4 belonging to a specific sector convened for the purpose of nominating
5 and selecting a Sectoral Representative to the Sangguniang
6 Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Bayan.

7 e. **Local Special Bodies** – refers to the Local Development Council,
8 Local Health Board, Local School Board, Local Housing Board, Local
9 Peace and Order Council, and such other local bodies as may be
10 provided by law.

11 f. **Local Chief Executive** – refers to the duly elected officials who head
12 local government units, namely, the Provincial Governor, the City
13 Mayor, and the Municipal Mayor.

14 CHAPTER II

15 People's Council

16 ***Section 4. Creation of the People's Council.*** A People's Council shall be
17 established in every province, city, and municipality.

18 The People's Council will be composed of accredited organizations operating
19 with a principal office, branch, chapter, or affiliate within the territorial
20 jurisdiction of the local government unit.

21 Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, every
22 Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang
23 Bayan must enact an enabling ordinance recognizing and institutionalizing
24 the People's Council in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

25 ***Section 5. Structure of the People's Council.*** The People's Council shall
26 have the following structure:

a. **General Assembly** – the highest policymaking body composed of all accredited organizations participating in the People’s Council; and

b. **Executive Committee** – the coordinating and administrative body selected by the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee is composed of representatives from different sectors in a local government unit. The composition must ensure balanced sectoral representation.

The Executive Committee shall select from among its members, by majority vote of all members, a Chairperson who will serve as the head and presiding officer of the People's Council.

CHAPTER III

Accreditation Process

Section 6. Accreditation of Civil Society Organizations. All CSOs, NGOs, and POs seeking participation in the People’s Council must undergo an accreditation process.

A uniform national accreditation system shall be prescribed by the DILG to govern the accreditation process. The process must ensure transparency, accessibility to legitimate organizations, protection from political interference, and uniform application across all local government units. Accreditation should not be subject to the discretion or influence of the Local Chief Executive or the Sanggunian.

Section 7. Identification of Sectors. The Executive Committee of the People's Council, in consultation with the General Assembly, must ensure representation of the sectors mandated under the Local Government Code of 1991, particularly women, workers, and other sectors as determined,

1 which shall at all times be represented in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan,
2 Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang Bayan.

3 The General Assembly of the People's Council must determine the third
4 Sectoral Representative, which may be selected from among sectors such as
5 the urban poor, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, students,
6 LGBTQIA+ persons, farmers, fisherfolk, or such other marginalized or
7 underrepresented sectors, based on the demographic, social, and economic
8 conditions of the local government unit.

9 The People's Council may also identify additional sectors for purposes of
10 participation in local special bodies, public consultations, and committee
11 deliberations of the local government unit.

12 CHAPTER IV

13 Local Sectoral Representation

14 **Section 8. Sectoral Assemblies.** Each identified sector will convene a
15 Sectoral Assembly composed of accredited organizations belonging to that
16 sector. The Sectoral Assembly will serve as a forum for discussing issues,
17 proposed policies and ordinances, and other matters relevant to the sector
18 concerned. It will select from among its qualified nominees a Sectoral
19 Representative who shall be in constant consultation and engagement with
20 the Sectoral Assembly.

21 **Section 9. Number of Sectoral Representatives.** There shall be three (3)
22 Sectoral Representatives in the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang
23 Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Bayan, as the case may be, consistent with the
24 provisions of the Local Government Code.

25 The Sectoral Representatives shall represent the following sectors:

- 26 a. Women;

1 b. Workers; and

2 c. One (1) sector chosen from among the urban poor, persons with
3 disabilities, senior citizens, students, LGBTQIA+ persons, farmers,
4 fisherfolk, or such other marginalized or underrepresented sectors as
5 may be determined by the People's Council.

6 Sectoral Representatives serve as additional members of the Sangguniang
7 Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, and Sangguniang Bayan, and will
8 not be counted against the regular elected membership thereof. They do not
9 include the mandatory representative of indigenous peoples or indigenous
10 cultural communities under The Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act of 1997 and
11 the president of the Pederasyon ng Sangguniang Kabataan under the
12 Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, who shall be guaranteed seats
13 in the Sanggunian in addition to the seats of the Sectoral Representatives.

14 ***Section 10. General Qualifications and Disqualifications of Sectoral***
15 ***Representatives.*** A Sectoral Representative must have the same
16 qualifications and none of the disqualifications of a member of the
17 Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang
18 Bayan, as the case may be, under existing law. In addition, a Sectoral
19 Representative must:

20 a. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of their selection;

21 b. Be a resident of the local government unit for at least one (1) year
22 immediately preceding the day of their selection;

23 c. Be a *bona fide* member of the sector they seek to represent for at least
24 one (1) year immediately preceding their selection;

25 d. Be nominated by an accredited organization within the sector;

1 e. Not be related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or
2 affinity to any incumbent elective or appointive public official; and

3 f. Not have held any elective or appointive public office prior to or during
4 their term of office.

5 ***Section 11. Specific Qualifications of Sectoral Representatives.*** A

6 Workers', Farmers', or Fisherfolk's Sectoral Representative must have been
7 working within the territorial jurisdiction of the local government unit for
8 at least one (1) year immediately preceding their selection. A Students'
9 Sectoral Representative must have been enrolled within the territorial
10 jurisdiction of the local government unit for at least two (2) semesters
11 immediately preceding their selection.

12 ***Section 12. Powers and Functions of Sectoral Representatives.*** A

13 Sectoral Representative shall:

14 (a) Sit as a member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang
15 Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Bayan, as the case may be;

16 (b) Chair committees relevant to the sector they represent;

17 (c) Participate in committee deliberations and legislative proceedings;

18 (d) Vote on ordinances and resolutions;

19 (e) Introduce and sponsor legislation concerning sectoral interests;

20 (f) Conduct consultations with their respective sectors; and

21 (g) Perform such other functions as may be provided under this Act or by
22 the rules of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang
23 Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Bayan, as the case may be.

Section 13. Representation in Local Special Bodies. Within forty-five days (45) days after the local general elections, the People's Council must identify their principal and alternate representatives to the local special bodies. The People's Council must submit a written notice stating the names of the chosen representatives to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Bayan and the DILG Provincial Director, City Director, City Local Government Operations Officer, or Municipal Local Government Operations Officer, as the case may be.

In no case shall an organization or a representative be a member of more than one local special body. The selected representative must not be an employee or related within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity to any incumbent elective or appointive official of the provincial, city, or municipal government.

CHAPTER V

Selection

Section 14. Manner of Selection. The selection of the Sectoral Representative shall be held during a Sectoral Assembly duly called for that purpose. The selection shall be conducted by secret ballot within thirty (30) days from the date of the local general election.

Only members of the Sectoral Assembly composed of accredited organizations belonging to the sector concerned shall have the right to vote in the selection. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared as the duly selected Sectoral Representative. In case of a tie, the Sectoral Assembly shall conduct a run-off selection between the tied nominees. The results of the selection shall be certified by the Chairperson of the People's Council and transmitted to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Bayan, as the case may be.

1 Immediately thereafter, the selected Sectoral Representatives shall take
2 their oath or affirmation of office and assume office.

3 The selection process must be democratic, transparent, and free from
4 political interference from officials of the local government unit.

5 **Section 15. Term of Office.** The term of office of the Sectoral
6 Representative is three (3) years, coterminous with the term of office of the
7 members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or
8 Sangguniang Bayan, as the case may be. A Sectoral Representative shall
9 serve for only one (1) term.

10 **Section 16. Permanent Vacancy.** A permanent vacancy occurs upon the
11 death, resignation, removal from office, permanent incapacity, or loss of
12 qualification of a Sectoral Representative.

13 In case of a permanent vacancy, the People's Council, through the concerned
14 sector, shall convene a Special Sectoral Assembly within thirty (30) days
15 from the occurrence of the vacancy for the purpose of selecting a
16 replacement Sectoral Representative. The selection shall follow the same
17 democratic and transparent process provided under this Act. The person
18 selected to fill the permanent vacancy shall serve only the unexpired portion
19 of the term of the predecessor.

20 **Section 17. Temporary Vacancy.** A temporary vacancy occurs when a
21 Sectoral Representative is temporarily unable to perform the duties of the
22 office due to physical, legal, or other valid causes, including but not limited
23 to a leave of absence, official travel, or suspension from office.

24 An Officer-in-Charge (OIC) shall be designated to exercise the powers and
25 perform the duties and functions of the Sectoral Representative during the
26 period of temporary incapacity. The Sectoral Representative causing the
27 vacancy shall designate in writing an OIC from among the *bona fide*

1 members of the accredited organizations belonging to the sector they
2 represent, which shall be subject to the confirmation of the Executive
3 Committee of the People's Council.

4 In the absence of designation, the Executive Committee of the People's
5 Council must designate an interim representative from among the
6 accredited organizations belonging to the same sector, who shall serve as
7 OIC until the Sectoral Representative resumes their performance of official
8 duties and functions. The OIC shall perform the duties and functions of the
9 Sectoral Representative temporarily and shall not serve beyond the period
10 of the vacancy.

11 CHAPTER VI

12 Funding and Support

13 **Section 18. Funding.** Local government units shall allocate at least one
14 percent (1%) of their annual budget to the operation and activities of the
15 People's Council, including:

16 (a) Administrative and logistical support;

17 (b) Sectoral consultations and assemblies;

18 (c) Capacity-building programs for Sectoral Representatives; and

19 (d) Research and policy development initiatives.

20 The People's Council may also receive grants, donations, and other lawful
21 sources of funding.

22 **Section 19. Administrative Support.** The local government unit must
23 provide the People's Council with appropriate office space, access to relevant
24 public documents, and administrative assistance necessary for the
25 performance of its functions.

1 **CHAPTER VII**

2 **Final Provisions**

3 **Section 20. Non-Interference.** Officials of the local government unit,
4 including the Local Chief Executive, shall not interfere in the accreditation
5 of CSOs, NGOs, and POs, the identification of sectors, or the selection of
6 Sectoral Representatives. Any attempt to influence, manipulate, or control
7 these processes will constitute an administrative offense punishable in
8 accordance with law.

9 **Section 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** Within sixty (60)
10 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG, in consultation with CSOs,
11 NGOs, POs, and local government units, shall promulgate the
12 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for the effective implementation
13 of this Act. Failure of the DILG to promulgate the IRR will not excuse any
14 Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang
15 Bayan from the duty of enacting the ordinance required within the period
16 provided under Section 4 of this Act

17 **Section 22. Separability Clause.** If, for any reason, any part or provision
18 of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions
19 thereof not affected thereby will continue to be in full force and effect.

20 **Section 23. Repealing Clause.** All laws, decrees, executive orders,
21 proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or part or parts
22 thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
23 modified accordingly.

24 **Section 24. Effectivity.** This Act takes effect fifteen (15) days after its
25 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.