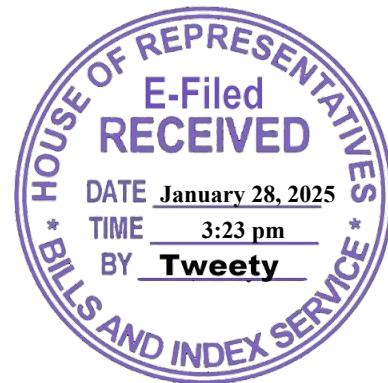


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1377

Submitted by the Committees on People's Participation and Appropriations on January 28, 2025

RE: House Bill No. 11363

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 385, 2727, and 4141

Sponsors: Representatives Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Harris Christopher M. Ongchuan, Emmarie "Lolypop" M. Ouano-Dizon, and Elizaldy S. Co

Mr. Speaker:

The Committees on People's Participation and Appropriations, to which were referred **House Bill No. 385**, introduced by **Representative Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr.**, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE'S COUNCIL IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS”

House Bill No. 2727, introduced by **Representative Alfonso V. Umali, Jr.**, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE'S COUNCIL IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL *SANGGUNIAN* AND LOCAL BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, OR SIMILAR WORK GROUPS”

and House Bill No. 4141, introduced by **Representative Harris Christopher M. Ongchuan**, entitled:

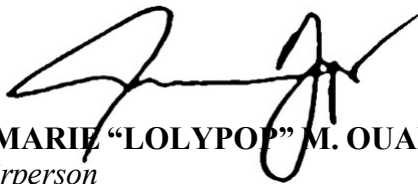
“AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN - LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE'S COUNCIL IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL *SANGGUNIAN* AND LOCAL BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES OR SIMILAR WORK GROUPS”

have considered the same and recommend that the attached **House Bill No. 11363**, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A SYSTEM OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE’S COUNCIL IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL *SANGGUNIAN* AND LOCAL BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES OR SIMILAR WORK GROUPS”

be approved in substitution of House Bills Numbered 385, 2727, and 4141, with Representatives Gabriel H. Bordado, Jr., Alfonso V. Umali, Jr., Harris Christopher M. Ongchuan, Emmarie "Lolypop" M. Ouano-Dizon, Charisse Anne C. Hernandez, Edsel A. Galeos, Doris E. Maniquiz, Joel R. Chua, Raoul Danniel A. Manuel, Bonifacio L. Bosita, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Noel “Bong” N. Rivera, Elizaldy S. Co, Joseph Gilbert F. Violago, Jude A. Acidre, Stella Luz A. Quimbo, Rachel Marguerite B. Del Mar, Maria Angela S. Garcia, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Mark O. Go, Albert S. Garcia and Ron P. Salo as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,



EMMARIE “LOLYPOP” M. OUANO-DIZON
Chairperson
Committee on People’s Participation



ELIZALDY S. CO
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

**THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY**

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 11363
(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 385, 2727, and 4141)

Introduced by Representatives GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR., ALFONSO V. UMALI, JR., HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN, EMMARIE "LOLYPOP" M. OUANO-DIZON, CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ, EDSEL A. GALEOS, DORIS E. MANQUIZ, JOEL R. CHUA, RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL, BONIFACIO L. BOSITA, LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA, NOEL "BONG" N. RIVERA, ELIZALDY S. CO, JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO, JUDE A. ACIDRE, STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO, RACHEL MARGUERITE B. DEL MAR, MARIA ANGELA S. GARCIA, JAIME R. FRESNEDI, MARK O. GO, ALBERT S. GARCIA and RON P. SALO.

AN ACT
CREATING A SYSTEM OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE'S COUNCIL IN EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL SANGGUNIAN AND LOCAL BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES OR SIMILAR WORK GROUPS

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "**People Empowerment**
2 **Act**".

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – It is hereby declared a policy of the State to ensure
4 participation of citizens in all avenues of local governance. Likewise, the State acknowledges
5 the value of creating a mechanism where its citizens' views and opinions in different areas of
6 governance may be heard and considered. Furthermore, pursuant to Article II, Section 23 of
7 the Constitution, the State recognizes the value of non-government, community-based, or
8 sectoral organizations in nation building and in creating an avenue to ensure their growth and
9 development. The State also recognizes that the partnership with people's organizations (POs)
10 and civil society organizations (CSOs) will spur development in local communities as
11 envisioned by the Local Government Code of 1991.

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

13 (a) *Civil society organization* refers to any organized citizens' group including POs and
14 non-government organizations such as community groups, labor unions, indigenous
15 groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional
16 associations, and foundations;

1 (b) *Local sanggunian* refers to the local legislative body specifically the *Sangguniang*
2 *Panlungsod* for cities, and the *Sangguniang Bayan* for municipalities;

3 (c) *Non-government organization* refers to an independent private and non- profit
4 organization formed primarily to promote social and economic development with
5 none of its officers or members occupying an elective position;

6 (d) *People's council* refers to a body composed of representatives of registered or
7 accredited CSOs and POs which shall be created in every city or municipality and
8 provincial levels as mandated in Section 8 of this Act; and

9 (e) *People's organization* refers to a *bona fide* cooperative or association of citizens
10 organized for purposes not contrary to law, with demonstrated capacity to promote
11 the public interest and with identifiable leadership, membership, and structure
12 whose officers and members do not occupy any elective government position.

13 **SEC. 4. Accreditation of CSOs.** – To be duly recognized and allowed to participate in
14 local governance, a CSO shall have actively operated for at least one (1) year in the city or
15 municipality where majority of its members reside, and must apply for accreditation with the
16 local *sanggunian*. An application for accreditation shall be approved by the local *sanggunian*,
17 upon submission of the following requirements:

18 (a) Proof of existence and operation in the respective city or municipality it is applying
19 in for at least one (1) year prior to the application for registration;

20 (b) Proof of activities held in pursuit of developmental objectives or of organizational
21 activities conducted;

22 (c) Program of activities planned for the year following the date of application for
23 registration;

24 (d) Copies of its Constitution, By-laws and/or Articles of Incorporation;

25 (e) Lists of its officers and members of good standing and their respective addresses;

26 (f) Financial Statement and Declaration of Assets and Liabilities; and

27 (g) Board Resolution manifesting a decision to register and participate under this Act.

28 A CSO whose application for accreditation has been approved shall be issued a
29 certificate containing the terms and conditions for accreditation.

30 A local *sanggunian*, however, may from time to time, and in consultation with the
31 organized People's Council, impose such other requirements and conditions for registration as
32 it may deem appropriate to best adhere to the principles of this Act.

33 Any CSO already accredited by a local government prior to the effectivity of this Act
34 need not register for purposes of this Act, unless its accreditation has in the meantime been
35 withdrawn.

36 **SEC. 5. Accreditation Deemed Inactive.** – An accredited CSO shall submit, by January
37 31 of every year, a list of accomplishments of the previous year and its plans for the current
38 year. The failure to submit these requirements for two (2) consecutive years shall render the

1 CSO's accreditation inactive and thus disqualifies the CSO from availing of the rights and
2 privileges thus vested upon registration mandated in Section 7 of this Act.

3 A CSO may apply for the reactivation of its accreditation after submitting the required
4 list of accomplishments and plans for the current year.

5 **SEC. 6. *Committee for the Accreditation of CSOs.*** – There shall be a Committee for
6 the Accreditation of CSOs in all provincial, city and municipal *sanggunians*. It shall perform
7 the following functions:

- 8 (a) Receive, evaluate and process applications for registration;
9 (b) Monitor compliance with the conditions for accreditation; and
10 (c) Initiate legislative measures for the effective performance of its tasks.

11 The People's Council created under Section 8 hereof, once formally organized, shall be
12 entitled to a two (2)-seat representation in the Committee.

13 **SEC. 7. *Rights and Privileges of Accredited CSOs.*** – An accredited CSO shall enjoy
14 the following rights and privileges:

- 15 (a) Enter into joint ventures and other cooperative undertakings with the local
16 government to engage in the delivery of certain basic services, capability-building
17 and livelihood projects;
18 (b) Develop local enterprises designed to improve productivity and income, diversify
19 agriculture, spur rural industrialization, promote ecological balance, and enhance
20 the economic and social well-being of the people within the framework of equitable
21 and sustainable development;
22 (c) Receive assistance from the local government for economic, socially-oriented,
23 environmental, good governance, or cultural projects to be implemented within
24 their territorial jurisdiction; and
25 (d) Automatic membership in the People's Council.

26 **SEC. 8. *Creation of People's Councils.*** – A People's Council composed of accredited
27 CSOs shall be created in each local government unit (LGU). For this purpose, the Committee
28 for the Accreditation of CSOs of each local *sanggunian* shall, not later than ninety (90) days
29 from the effectivity of this Act, call for a convention of all accredited CSOs to facilitate the
30 formal organization of the People's Council.

31 **SEC. 9. *Structure and Rules of the People's Council.*** – Each People's Council shall
32 determine its own organizational structure and internal rules, but shall at all times provide for
33 adequate consultation mechanisms for purposes of obtaining the views and suggestions of all
34 political parties or movements, government employees' organizations, other non-accredited but
35 legitimate CSOs, and accredited CSOs which are not members of the People's Council:
36 *Provided*, That no political party, government employees' organization or non-registered CSOs
37 may be nominated by the Council for membership in the LGUs special bodies nor granted the
38 rights and privileges of accredited CSOs under this Act: *Provided further*, That no provision
39 herein shall be interpreted to prohibit the Council from changing its name or from being
40 organized for purposes other than those indicated in this Act.

1 **SEC. 10. Recognition of the People's Council by the Local Sanggunian.** – Only one
2 (1) People's Council shall be recognized by each local *sanggunian*. Each local *sanggunian* is
3 hereby mandated to issue a certificate of recognition for the People's Council within thirty (30)
4 days from the filing of a petition for recognition and shall pass a *Sanggunian* Resolution
5 embodying the rights and privileges of the recognized People's Council.

6 **SEC. 11. Withdrawal of Recognition of the People's Council.** – A local *sanggunian*
7 can withdraw the recognition granted to a People's Council only upon action of a petitioner,
8 and based on the following grounds:

- 9 (a) That the People's Council allowed itself or any of its member organizations to
10 engage primarily in, or to be used primarily for, partisan political activities; and
11 (b) Other grounds to be provided for in the rules and regulations to be issued to
12 implement this Act.

13 The local *sanggunian* shall not recognize internal or inter-organizational conflicts
14 within the People's Council.

15 **SEC. 12. Powers and Responsibilities of the People's Council.** – Upon recognition,
16 the People's Council may, in accordance with its policies and internal rules, exercise the
17 following powers and responsibilities:

- 18 (a) Elect or appoint, from among its member organizations, its representatives to all
19 local government bodies, boards, councils, committees, task forces special
20 government bodies and other similar work groups which the local government or
21 national laws may hereinafter create. Member organizations elected or appointed to
22 represent the people's Council shall have the sole prerogative to choose, from
23 among their bona fide members, the persons who shall represent the People's
24 Council in the respective boards, councils, committees, task forces or special
25 bodies. Unless otherwise provided herein, such representatives shall not exceed
26 twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership of the board, council, committee, task
27 force or special body;
28 (b) Participate in the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of government
29 activities: *Provided*, That these functions shall be exercised without compensation
30 or remuneration. The concerned local government shall, however, provide for the
31 necessary office spaces, facilities and equipment for the use of the People's Council;
32
33 (c) Observe, and participate in the deliberation, conceptualization, implementation and
34 evaluation of projects, activities and programs of the LGU, propose legislation and
35 participate at the committee level of the local *sanggunian*; and
36
37 (d) Elect a representative to the provincial People's Council.

38
39 **SEC. 13. Creation of a Provincial People's Council (PPC).** – A PPC shall be created
40 and recognized by the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan* and shall be composed of all representatives
41 from the municipal and city People's Councils within a province's jurisdiction.

1 The PPC shall elect, from within its ranks, a representative who shall sit as a member
2 of the *Sanggunian Panlalawigan* and shall exercise the duties and powers of a Provincial Board
3 member.

4 **SEC. 14. *Non-Partisan Nature of the People's Council.*** – The People's Council shall
5 not engage in, or allow itself or its member organizations to be used for purposes of partisan
6 politics and shall adopt such measures to ensure that it is adequately shielded from any political
7 partisanship or influence.

8 As used in this Act, partisan politics shall refer to any activity, statement, or
9 manifestation which solely or primarily serves to campaign for or against any particular
10 political party or any candidate for any elective public office.

11 **SEC. 15. *Right to Self-Organization.*** – Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 15 of the
12 Constitution, all CSOs are recognized as independent and autonomous self-help organizations.
13 They are encouraged to organize into formal cooperatives, labor unions, interest groups, non-
14 government organizations, sectoral organizations and people's organizations in furtherance of
15 their constitutionally mandated role of enabling the people to pursue and protect, within
16 democratic framework, their legitimate and collective interests and aspirations through
17 peaceful and lawful means.

18 Furthermore, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and all
19 LGUs are mandated to assist and support efforts of the people towards self-organization to
20 address common concerns, and to promote common welfare and interests.

21 **SEC. 16. *Information Boards and Suggestion Boxes.*** – Information boards and
22 suggestion boxes shall be provided, maintained and controlled solely by each barangay, to be
23 strategically situated in public plazas, government buildings and offices, public markets,
24 schools, and at such public places accessible to the people, which boards and boxes shall be
25 used other than those maintained by the barangays and the national government for other
26 purposes.

27 LGUs are mandated to respond within fifteen (15) working days to the suggestions filed
28 by citizens in suggestion boxes.

29 **SEC. 17. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
30 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

31 **SEC. 18. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within one hundred twenty (120)
32 days from the effectivity of this Act, the DILG and LGUs shall, in consultation with accredited
33 CSOs who have previously engaged in concerned undertakings with local governments,
34 determine effective ways and methods to ensure the success of the objectives of this Act and
35 craft the rules and regulations to implement it.

36 **SEC. 19. *Sunset Review.*** – Five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act, Congress
37 shall review and recommend amendments thereto, after evaluating the problems and issues in
38 its implementation.

39 **SEC. 20. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
40 unconstitutional, the other provisions, not affected thereby, shall remain valid and subsisting.

1 **SEC. 21. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
2 proclamations and administrative regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
3 Act are hereby amended, modified, superseded, or repealed accordingly.

4 **SEC. 22. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
5 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

6
7 Approved,

House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 11363

(In substitution of House Bills Numbered 385, 2727, and 4141)
(As approved by the Committee on 21 March 2023)

AN ACT

**CREATING A SYSTEM OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PEOPLE'S COUNCIL IN EVERY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS
AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL SANGGUNIAN
AND LOCAL BOARDS, COUNCILS, COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES
OR SIMILAR WORK GROUPS**

Introduced by: Representatives GABRIEL H. BORDADO, JR., ALFONSO V. UMALI, JR., HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN, EMMARIE "LOLYPOP" M. OUANO-DIZON, CHARISSE ANNE C. HERNANDEZ, EDSEL A. GALEOS, DORIS E. MANQUIZ, JOEL R. CHUA, RAOUL DANNIEL A. MANUEL, BONIFACIO L. BOSITA, LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA, NOEL "BONG" N. RIVERA, ELIZALDY S. CO, JOSEPH GILBERT F. VIOLAGO, JUDE A. ACIDRE, STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO, RACHEL MARGUERITE B. DEL MAR, MARIA ANGELA S. GARCIA, JAIME R. FRESNEDI, MARK O. GO, ALBERT S. GARCIA and RON P. SALO.

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION**
Committee Chairperson: Rep. EMMARIE "LOLYPOP" M. OUANO-DIZON

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**
Committee Chairperson: Rep. ELIZALDY S. CO

OBJECTIVES:

- To ensure participation of citizens in all avenues of local governance where their views and opinions may be heard and considered.
- To create an avenue to ensure non-government, community-based, or sectoral organizations growth and development.
- To promote partnership with people's organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) to spur development in local communities as envisioned by the Local Government Code of 1991

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Provides for CSOs accreditation via approval of the local *sanggunian* through a Committee for Accreditation (Committee) where People's Councils (PC) shall have two (2) members.

- Provides requirements for CSO accreditation and states that *Local Sanggunians* may, in consultation with the PCs, impose requirements to best adhere to the principles of this Act.
- Requires submission of CSO's previous year accomplishments and current year plans. Failure to comply for two (2) consecutive years shall render the accreditation inactive subject to reactivation.
- Local government accredited CSOs are not required to register under this Act, unless accreditation has in the meantime been withdrawn.
- Provides for the Rights and Privileges of Accredited CSOs such as the right to enter joint ventures and other cooperative undertakings with the local government unit (LGU) for delivery of certain basic services, capability-building and livelihood projects; to develop local enterprises; and to membership in the PC.
- One PC, composed of accredited CSOs, should be recognized by the local *sanggunian* through a resolution embodying its rights and privileges.
- A local *sanggunian* can withdraw PC recognition upon petition based on if PC or its member engaged primarily in partisan political activities or any ground under the rules and regulations to be issued to implement this Act.
- PCs shall determine its own organizational structure and internal rules but shall at all times provide for consultation mechanisms to obtain the views and suggestions of all political parties or movements, government employees' organizations, other non-accredited or non-member but legitimate CSOs.
- PCs are not prohibited from changing their name or from being organized for purposes other than those in this Act.
- Provides for the Powers and Responsibilities of the PCs including:
 - Elect or appoint its representatives to local government bodies and other similar work groups which the local government or national laws may hereinafter create.
 - Participate in the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of LGU projects, activities and programs without compensation or remuneration but with LGU provided office spaces, facilities and equipment
 - Propose legislation and participate at the committee level of the local *sanggunian*;
 - Elect a representative to the Provincial People's Council (PPC).
- Provides for a PPC created and recognized by the *Sangguniang Panlalawigan*, composed of all representatives from the municipal and city PCs within a province's jurisdiction.
- Affirms the Right to Self-Organization and directs the Department of the Interior and Local Government and LGUs to assist the exercise of said right.
- Provides for Sunset Review by Congress.

RELATED LAWS:

- Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended by Republic Act No. 8553