

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



16 JAN 11 P4 04

SENATE  
S. No. 3061

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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AN ACT  
PROHIBITING THE POSTING OF POLITICAL SIGNS  
ON GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Political signs will start cropping up like mushrooms pretty soon, as another nationwide election approaches.

Candidates for public office uniformly define themselves as law-abiding citizens with the public good at heart. However, virtually every candidate allow or encourage their campaign workers to violate the law by posting hundreds of signs in the public right-of-way in the medians of major roads.

Incumbents vying for re-election and candidates presently occupying Government positions often use government funds and resources to bolster their election campaign. This creates an unfair advantage to the other candidates that do not have such resources at their disposal.

The political signs on private property, homes and businesses, are part of good political discourse. However, the act of erecting in Government property political signs by candidates who have access to them should be considered illegal so as to level the playing field for all aspiring candidates.

The proposed measure seeks to prohibit the posting of political signs on Government property. This measure also provides for restrictions and guidelines on the posting of political signs in different places in order to attain a fair election.<sup>1</sup>

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
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<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, Third Regular Session.

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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 shall be known as the “Anti-Political Signs on  
2 Government Property Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – For the purposes of this Act the term:

4 (a) “Candidate” means a person seeking public office.

5 (b) “Government property” means any tangible or real property held by the  
6 government of the Philippines including any government owned easement or highway.

7 (c) “Organization” means any political organization or political action group  
8 advocating an issue in a special or general election.

9 (d) “Political sign” means all billboards, posters, banners or displays which  
10 advocate a candidate for political office or any matter to be presented to the electorate for  
11 vote.

12 (e) “Utility pole” means any pole erected for street lighting, power lines, and cable  
13 television lines.

14 SECTION 3. *Prohibition of Political Signs.* – Candidates for public office or other  
15 persons having an interest in an election shall not place political signs which advocate

1 voting for or against candidates, or other matters to be considered by the electorate, on  
2 government property.

3 **SECTION 4. *Restrictions on Posting of Political Signs.* –**

4 (a) No political sign may be erected or posted upon the shoulder of any roadway.

5 (b) No political sign may be erected upon, on or within any government building,  
6 or property, or nailed to any tree or attached to any fence on government property.

7 (c) No political sign may be erected or posted within one hundred (100) meters of  
8 any entrance to a public school, or upon any public school property, including school  
9 fences and gates.

10 (d) No political sign may be posted upon any utility pole.

11 (e) No political sign may be posted upon any public park within the jurisdiction of  
12 the Department of Public Works and Highways, or the City or Municipality Mayors.

13 (f) No political sign may be erected or posted within one hundred (100) meters of  
14 any intersection.

15 **SECTION 5. *Removal of Signs.* –** Any sign in violation of any of the provisions of  
16 this Act shall be removed within forty-eight (48) hours by the candidate or organization  
17 after notification by the Department of Public Works and Highways or City or  
18 Municipality Mayor in which the sign is located.

19 A sign not removed within forty-eight hours of notification shall be removed  
20 immediately by the Department of Public Works and Highways or the City or  
21 Municipality Mayor.

22 **SECTION 6. *Penalties.* –** Any candidate pursuant to the definition of this Act who  
23 shall authorize, order or perform any of the acts or practices constituting in whole or in  
24 part a violation of Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act, shall upon conviction, be subject to a

1 fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Five  
2 Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six months  
3 but not more than one year, or both upon the discretion of the court.

4 In addition to the penalties provided in the preceding paragraph, the candidate  
5 shall also suffer the penalty of special temporary disqualification.

6 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
7 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other  
8 provisions hereof.

9 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or  
10 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby  
11 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

12 SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
13 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

/ml24Nov2015