

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

04 JUL 29 P4:47

SENATE
S.B. No. 1557

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Executive Order No. 18, creating the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), was promulgated to promote the growth and development of the sugar industry through greater participation of the private sector. One of its objectives is "to establish and maintain such balanced relations between production and requirement of sugar and such marketing conditions as will ensure stabilized prices at a level reasonably profitable to the producers and fair to the consumers." The higher cost of sugar in the local market compared to world market prices shows that the SRA has failed to realize this objective.


The iniquitous composition of the Sugar Board, the governing body of the SRA, is blamed for the problem. Under the law, the Board is composed of a Chairman to be appointed by the President of the Philippines and two (2) members—one representing the millers and the other representing the planters. Being composed of representatives of sugar producers, the Board would formulate self-serving policies. The interest of consumers is not protected.

To rectify this situation, the Board's composition must be expanded to provide additional members representing sugar consumers.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
(SRA) SUGAR BOARD, AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Executive Order No. 18 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 4. *Governing Body: Sugar Board.* - All corporate powers of the Sugar Regulatory Administration shall be vested in, and exercised by, the Sugar Board. The Board shall be composed of an Administrator, who shall act as its Chairman, to be appointed by the President of the Philippines, and FOUR (4) MEMBERS [two (2) members]. The FOUR (4) [two (2)] members of the Board shall likewise be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the sugar industry with one representing THE MILLERS, THE PLANTERS, FOOD PROCESSORS AND CONSUMERS, RESPECTIVELY [the millers and the other representing the planters].

The Sugar Board shall meet in regular session once a month, the Board may be called by the Chairman OR ANY MEMBER [both private sector representatives] to a special session as the need arises.

The Administrator shall act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Sugar Regulatory Administration.

SECTION 2. Section 5 of the same law is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Tenure—The Administrator shall hold office at the pleasure of the President of the Philippines. The FOUR (4) [two (2)] members from the private sector shall hold office for a period of three (3) years unless sooner removed for cause. No reappointment of the members shall be made immediately upon termination of their respective terms of office. Any member appointed to a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term of the member whom he succeeds.

SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.