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SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 632

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 14 provides, "The State recognizes the role of women in nation-building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men."

Women play multiple and vital roles in economic development, but in many developmental activities, their roles have been overlooked, ignored, or displaced.

The full participation of women in, and the full contribution of women to, the development process are essential to achieving growth, a more equitable distribution of resources and services to meet basic needs, a higher quality of life, and sustainable development.

In food production, for instance, low-resource women farmers provide the critical labor and offer the best hope for increasing food supplies. With access to appropriate extension, credit, and marketing services, they can do much more.

Women are also a major source of entrepreneurial talent in the informal sectors and with access to training, credit, and other forms of assistance, are expected to account for much of the growth in the private sector employment.

The failure to effectively integrate women in development activities retards achievement of development goals. Hence, this bill seeks to promote the integration of women in the development process.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

- (d) collect sex-disaggregated data for, and include such data in, every department's project paper, developmental program, as well as all relevant research projects;
 - (e) ensure that project and program evaluations of the government include an assessment of the extent to which the project integrates women in the development process and of the impact of the project or program on women, including both positive and negative implications of the project or program in enhancing the self-reliance of women and improving their incomes;
 - (f) ensure that strategies, projects, and programs identify and take advantage of opportunities to assist women in activities that are of critical significance to their self-reliance and development, including (a) appropriate extension and related services to low resource women who are engaged in subsistence or cash crop production, and (b) training, technical assistance, credit, and other services to strengthen the managerial skills and capabilities of women, with special attention to women's institutions and women entrepreneurs;
 - (g) require that efforts to achieve the goal of integrating women into the government's programs and activities be an important factor in the personnel evaluation process; and
 - (h) perform other acts necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act.
- (2) Members shall not be paid by reason of their service on the Task Force. Each member shall receive travel expenses, including per diem in an amount to be determined by existing law.
 - (3) The Task Force may procure temporary and intermittent services to assist in the discharge of its functions.

Sec 4. Membership, Number and Appointment - The Task Force shall be composed of six (6) members to be appointed by the Secretary as follows:

- (1) two (2) senior-level staff, regarding the integration of women in development process;
- (2) two (2) members from among institutions in education or academia in the fields of women studies;
- (3) two (2) members from among non-governmental organizations, people's organizations or any similar entities that promote and advance the welfare of women, minorities and individuals with disabilities who shall be in decision making positions.

Sec 5. Powers of the Task Force.

- (1) **Hearings and Sessions** - The Task Force may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive evidence as it considers appropriate. It may administer oaths or affirmations to witnesses appearing before it;
- (2) **Obtaining Official Data** - The Task Force may secure directly from any department or agency information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the Task Force head, the head of that department or agency shall furnish that information to the Task Force;
- (3) **Mails** - The Task Force may use mails in the same manner and under the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the government;
- (4) **Contract Authority** - To the extent provided in advance in appropriations act, the Commission may contract with and compensate government and private agencies or persons for the purpose of conducting research or surveys necessary to enable the Task Force to carry out its duties under this Act.

Sec 6. 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.

Sec 7. 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.

Sec 8. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,