

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

7 JUL 18 1975

SENATE  
S. B. No. 1287

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article II, Section 14 provides:

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



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 their full contribution to the development process are essential to achieving growth, amore 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 and 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.\*

  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  


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\* This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT  
2 PROMOTING THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN THE  
3 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Women in Development  
7 Act.”

8 SECTION 2. *Strengthening Women in Development Policy.* – The head of every  
9 government department, bureaus or agency shall take the following steps to strengthen the  
10 women in development policy and shall incorporate the active participation of local women and  
11 local women’s organizations in its programs, projects and activities (including their involvement  
12 in the planning, design, implementation, management, monitoring, and evaluation of the  
13 activities.

14 SECTION 3. *Establishment of Task Force on Women Development.* – There shall be  
15 established within the department a task force on women in development, to be created under the  
16 Office of the President. The task force shall be responsible for –

- 17 (A) Overseeing the implementation of this Act;
- 18 (B) Consulting indigenous peoples and women’s organizations in developing strategies  
19 to overcome the obstacles to integration of women in the development process;
- 20 (C) Establishing specific criteria for measuring and evaluating the government’s  
21 performance in incorporating women in development activities, and developing ways  
22 to institutionalize a learning within the department on women in development  
23 activities in formulating its specific programs of action;

1 (D) Collect sex-disaggregated data for, and include such data in, every department's  
2 project paper, development program, as well as all relevant research projects;

3 (E) Ensuring that project and development evaluations of the government include an  
4 assessment of the extent to which the project integrates women in the development  
5 process and of the impact of the project or program on women, including both  
6 positive and negative implications of the project or program in enhancing the self-  
7 reliance of women and improving their incomes;

8 (F) Ensuring that strategies, projects, and programs identify and take advantage of  
9 opportunities to assist women in activities that are of critical significance to their  
10 self-reliance and development, including –

11 (1) Appropriate extension and related services to low-resource women who are  
12 engaged in subsistence or cash crop production; and

13 (2) Training, technical assistance, credit, and other services to strengthen the  
14 managerial skills and capabilities of women, with special attention to  
15 women's institutions and women entrepreneurs;

16 (G) Requiring that efforts to achieve the goal of integrating women into the  
17 government's programs and activities be an important factor in the personnel  
18 evaluation process; and

19 (H) Performing other acts necessary to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act.

20 Members shall not be paid by reason of their service to the Commission. Each member  
21 shall receive travel expenses, including *per diem* in an amount to be determined by existing law.

22 The Task Force may procure temporary and intermittent services to assist in the  
23 discharge of its functions.

24 SECTION 4. *Membership.* – The Commission shall be composed of six members to be  
25 appointed by the President as follows:

26 (A) Two (2) senior-level staff, who shall be in decision-making positions regarding the  
27 integration of women in development process;

1 (B) Two (2) members from among institutions in education or academe in the fields of  
2 women studies; and

3 (C) Two (2) members from among non-governmental organizations, people's  
4 organizations or any similar entities that promote and advance the welfare of women,  
5 minorities and individuals with disabilities.

6 SECTION 5. *Powers of the Task Force.* --

7 (A) *Hearings and Sessions.* -- The Task Force may, for the purpose of carrying out this  
8 Act, hold hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and receive  
9 evidence as it considers appropriate. It may administer or affirmations to witnesses  
10 appearing before it.

11 (B) *Obtaining Official Data.* -- The Task Force may secure directly from any department  
12 or agency information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of  
13 the Task Force head, the head of that department or agency shall furnish that  
14 information to the Task Force.

15 (C) *Mails.* -- The Task Force may use mail in the same manner and under the same  
16 conditions as other department or agency.

17 (D) *Contract Authority.* -- To the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the  
18 Commission may contract with and compensate government and private agencies or  
19 persons for the purpose of conducting research or surveys necessary to enable the  
20 Task Force to carry out its duties under this Act.

21 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* -- If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or  
22 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
23 valid and subsisting.

24 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* -- Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
25 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
26 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

3           Approved,