

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 21 P4:43

SENATE  
S. No. **1784**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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#### 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*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO  
*MD*

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<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress.

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1 AN ACT  
2 TO PROHIBIT THE POSTING OF POLITICAL SIGNS ON GOVERNMENT  
3 PROPERTY

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act may be known as the “*Anti-Political Signs on*  
5 *Government Property Act.*”

6 SECTION 2. *Definitions.* – The following terms as used in this Act shall have the  
7 following meaning:

8 (a) *Candidate* – shall mean a person seeking public office.

9 (b) *Government property* - shall mean any tangible or real property held by the  
10 government of the Philippines including any government owned easement  
11 or highway.

12 (c) *Organization* – shall mean any political organization or political action group  
13 advocating an issue in a special or general election.

14 (4) *Political sign* – shall mean all billboards, posters, banners or displays which  
15 advocate a candidate for political office or any matter to be presented to  
16 the electorate for vote.

17 (5) *Utility pole* – shall mean any pole erected for street lighting, power lines, and  
18 cable television lines.

19 SECTION 3. *Prohibition of Political Signs* - Candidates for public office or other  
20 persons having an interest in an election shall not place political signs which advocate  
21 voting for or against candidates, or other matters to be considered by the electorate, on  
22 government property.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(6) No political sign may be erected or posted within one hundred (100) feet of any intersection.

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

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

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* – Any candidate pursuant to the definition of this Act who shall authorize, order or perform any of the acts or practices constituting in whole or in part a violation of Sections 3, 4, and 5 of this Act, shall upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand pesos (P500,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (3) years, or both upon the discretion of the court.

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

52           SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof, is held  
53   invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise  
54   affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

55           SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
56   executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,  
57   or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended  
58   accordingly.

59           SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
60   after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.