

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 22 A9:35

SENATE
S. No. 1871

RECEIVED BY:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Individuals who are part of a group, corporation, or an organization are beholden to the wishes of the group which they belong to. There have been cases where fees are collected involuntarily from them for the purpose of funding activities of a political nature. There is no law prohibiting collections of this kind. The absence of legislation has left the individual without remedy to seek redress from this form of extortion.¹

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session

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1 AN ACT
2 TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS FROM HAVING THEIR MONEY INVOLUNTARILY
3 COLLECTED AND USED FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY A CORPORATION,
4 ORGANIZATION OR GROUP

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act may be cited as "Protection from Involuntary
6 Collection Act."

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to
8 protect any individual by prohibiting the use of their money involuntarily collected from them
9 for political activities.

10 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* -For purpose of this Act, the following term:

11 (A) "Labor organization" means any union or association of employees which exists in
12 whole or in part for the purpose of collective bargaining or of dealing with employees
13 concerning terms and conditions of employment;

14 (B) "Corporation" means an entity organized under the Corporation Code, including
15 government-owned and controlled corporations;

16 (C) "Religious group" means any non-profit or non-stock association of individuals
17 belonging to any religious denomination or having the same faith or belief;

18 (D) "Civic group" means any club or association of individuals created or established for
19 the purpose of delivering public or conducting activities benefiting the common good;

1 (E) "People's organization" means any *bona fide* association of citizens with
2 demonstrated capacity to promote the public interest and with identifiable leadership,
3 membership, and structure;

4 (F) "Non-Government Organization," also known as private voluntary organizations or
5 voluntary agencies, are private, non-profit, non-stock organizations or corporations, engaged in
6 long-term activities, contributing to the welfare of communities or social sector such as but not
7 limited to: community organizing, community education, sectoral development, humanitarian or
8 charity work, disaster relief, family planning, physical, psychological and social rehabilitation:
9 environmental concerns, human rights promotion and protection, and social amelioration;

10 (G) "Government Organization" pertains to national or local agencies under the
11 Executive, Legislative and the Judiciary branches of government; and

12 (H) "Political Activities" includes any communications or other activities which involve
13 carrying on propaganda, attempting to influence legislation, or participating in any political
14 campaign or political party.

15 SECTION 4. *Prohibition.* - Except with the separate, prior, written, and voluntary
16 authorization of each individual, which shall remain in effect until revoked and may be revoked
17 any time, it shall be unlawful:

18 (A) For any labor organization to collect from or assess its members or non-members any
19 dues, fees, or other payments, or any part of such dues, fees, or other payments will be used for
20 political activities;

21 (B) For any corporation to collect or assess from its stockholders or employees any dues,
22 fees, or other payments if any part of such dues, fees, or other payments will be used for political
23 activities;

24 (C) For any religious group or organization to collect or assess from its members and
25 employees any dues, fees, or other payments if any part of such dues, fees, or other payment will
26 be used for political activities;

1 (D) For any civic group or organization to collect or assess from its members, volunteers,
2 and employees and dues, fees, or other payments if any part of such dues, fees, or other
3 payments will be used for political activities;

4 (E) For any people's organization to collect or assess from its members and volunteers
5 any dues, fees, or other payments if any part of such dues, fees, or other payments will be used
6 for political activities;

7 (F) For any sectoral group or organization to collect or assess from its members any dues,
8 fees, or other payments if any part of such dues, fees, or other payments will be used for political
9 activities;

10 (G) For any government organization to collect or assess from its members any dues,
11 fees, or other payments if any part of such dues, fees, or other payments will be used for political
12 activities;

13 (H) For any person or other organizations, group, or association who exert control, in
14 whatever form, over other individuals such as landlords, militant groups, and the like to collect
15 any amount of money for political activities.

16 SECTION 5. *Penalty.* - A penalty in the amount of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos
17 (P50,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than three (3) months or both shall be imposed to the
18 guilty officer or officers, leader or leaders, employees, members, or volunteers of any
19 organization, corporation or association who violated any provision of this Act.

20 SECTION 6. *Disclosure of Purpose.* - The labor, civic, religious, government or
21 nongovernment, sectoral or people's organizations and corporations shall specifically inform in
22 writing the individuals concerned, of the purpose or purposes for which any amount of money
23 shall be collected, especially if they are being collected for political activities, and not conceal
24 their true purpose by incorporating it with other dues, fees, or other payments that can be
25 legitimately collected from the said individuals.

1 SECTION 7. - *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree, or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
6 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,