


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

OFFICE

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SENATE
S. No. 1920

RECEIVED BY 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Among the powers of the President of the Philippines as Chief Executive of the Land is to act on behalf of our country in its dealings and relations with other countries. As such, he exercises the treaty-making power. This power is not, however, absolute because the Constitution, Article VII, Section 21 provides that "no treaty or international agreement shall be valid and effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of the Members of the Senate."


The proposed measure seeks to reassert such power, mandating Senate concurrence to international and executive agreements. The objective is to ensure that any international commitment made by the President, whether under bilateral or multilateral arrangements, does not go against our national security and interests.¹

acc. 
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

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1 AN ACT
2 MANDATING CONCURRENCE TO INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND
3 EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Definition of Terms.* -For the purpose of this Act, the term:

5 (A) "International agreement" refers to treaty, convention, act, general act, protocol, or
6 any agreement with an external entity, involving political issues or changes of national policy
7 and those involving international arrangements of a permanent character; and

8 (B) "Executive agreement" refers to an agreement embodying adjustment of detail
9 carrying out a law or a well-established national policy or tradition, or an agreement involving
10 arrangements of a more or less temporary nature.

11 SECTION 2. No international agreement or executive agreement shall be valid and
12 effective unless concurred in by at least two-thirds of all members of the Senate.

13 SECTION 3. Any international agreement or executive agreement or any part or
14 provision thereof, which conflicts with or is contrary to the Constitution shall have no force and
15 effect.

16 SECTION 4. *Exceptions.* - The following agreements do not need Senate Concurrence:

17 (A) Executive agreements concluded by the President in pursuance of an authorization
18 contained in prior treaty;

1 (B) Executive agreements concluded by the President after prior Congressional
2 authorization;

3 (C) Executive agreements concluded by the President based on his exclusive powers such
4 as his power to receive foreign ambassadors and recognize foreign governments, and to authorize
5 the sending of medical missions of humanitarian reasons, provided that the same is effected
6 through the Philippine National Red Cross; and

7 (D) The acts of the President in his power as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
8 of the Philippines, except when otherwise provided in Sections 5 and 6.

9 All agreements negotiated by the President not covered by the foregoing shall be
10 confirmed by a least two-thirds of all members of the Senate.

11 SECTION 5. The deployment or assignment of Philippine military troops to any foreign
12 country whether for peacekeeping missions or combat operations and regardless of the size or
13 number thereof, can be authorized by the President only with the concurrence of the Senate. For
14 this purpose, the President shall submit to the Senate for its concurrence, the corresponding
15 international agreement or document which provided for the sending by the Philippine
16 Government of military troops to another country for such purposes as specified therein. The
17 President shall keep the Senate regularly posted on the status of such military contingents
18 assigned abroad.

19 SECTION 6. The provisions of Section 5 hereof shall also apply to international
20 agreements involving other forms of military assistance such as military equipment and
21 munitions which may be requested from the Philippine Government.

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

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

4

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

Approved,