

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

'13 AUG 29 P5:14

SENATE
S. No. 1449

RECEIVED BY: *ja*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The purpose of Republic Act No. 7941, otherwise known as the "Party-List System Act," is to "enable Filipino citizens belonging to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties" who lack well-defined political constituencies, "but who could contribute to the formulation and enactment of appropriate legislation that will benefit the nation as a whole," to become members of the House of Representatives. Women comprising approximately half of the population in this country are among those who are marginalized and underrepresented.

As the State recognizes the role of women in nation building, it is therefore necessary that women be given equal rights and opportunities for political representation, articulation, and action.

Presently, the State of women's political representation needs to be advanced. This can be achieved by instituting structures and mechanisms whereby their political representation and involvement is assured. In this light, this bill seeks to institute a scheme in the Party List System that will increase the chances for political representation of women. It provides that at least forty percent (40%) of the five nominees per registered organization be women; and that at least one of the first three positions be occupied by a woman nominee.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

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1 AN ACT
2 AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7941,
3 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PARTY-LIST SYSTEM ACT"

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7941, otherwise known as the "Party-List
5 System Act," is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 "Section 8. *Nomination of Party List Representatives.* - Each registered
7 party, organization or coalition shall submit to the COMELEC not later than
8 forty-five (45) days before the election a list of names, not less than five (5), AT
9 **LEAST FORTY PERCENT (40%) OF WHICH MUST BE WOMEN**, from
10 which party representatives shall be chosen in case it obtains the required number
11 of votes[.]; **PROVIDED, THAT EACH REGISTERED PARTY,**
12 **ORGANIZATION, OR COALITION, BEFORE SUBMITTING THE LIST**
13 **TO THE COMELEC, NOMINATED AMONG THEMSELVES,**
14 **REPRESENTATIVES OF AN EVEN NUMBER, FIFTY PERCENT (50%)**
15 **OF WHICH ARE WOMEN; PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE FINAL**
16 **FIVE REPRESENTATIVES SHALL CONSIST OF TWO MEN AND TWO**
17 **WOMEN CHOSEN BY THE REGISTERED PARTY, ORGANIZATION,**
18 **OR COALITION, WITH THE LAST REPRESENTATIVE CHOSEN BY**
19 **DRAWING LOTS AMONG THE REMAINING NOMINEES; PROVIDED,**
20 **FINALLY, THAT THE RANKING OF THE FINAL FIVE**
21 **REPRESENTATIVES BE DONE BY DRAWING LOTS, WITH AT LEAST**

1 **ONE OF THE FIRST THREE POSITIONS TO BE OCCUPIED BY A**
2 **WOMAN NOMINEE.**

3 A person may be nominated in one (1) list only. Only persons who have
4 given their consent in writing may be named in the list. The list shall not include
5 any candidate for any elective position who has lost his bid for an elective office
6 in the immediately preceding election. No change of names or alteration of the
7 order of nominees shall be allowed after the same shall have been submitted to the
8 COMELEC except in cases where the nominee dies, or withdraws in writing his
9 nomination, or becomes incapacitated in which case the name of the substitute
10 nominee shall be placed in the list. Incumbent sectoral representatives in the
11 House of Representative who are nominated in the party-list system shall not be
12 considered resigned.”

13 SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision is held invalid or unconstitutional,
14 the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and
15 subsisting.

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

19 SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,