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NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Third Regular Session* )

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**SENATE**  
**S. No. 2730**

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Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

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**AN ACT**  
**DEFINING AND PROHIBITING POLITICAL DYNASTIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**Explanatory Note**

A Harvard Academy research study in 2011 highlights how political dynasties become a product of the tendency of elites to persist and reproduce their power over time, undermining the effectiveness of institutional reforms in the process.

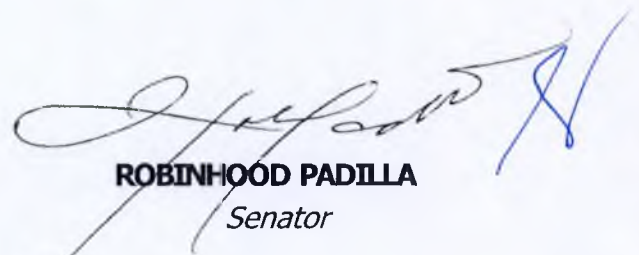
Based on an extensive dataset of our local elections from 1988 to 2019, evidence demonstrates that the number of governors with at least one relative in office (dynasty) increased by almost 39 percentage points, from 41% in 1988 to 80% in 2019. The dynasty proportion of vice governors rose from 18% in 1988 to 68% in 2019. Officials from municipalities and cities are not immune to this tendency. The percentage of mayors in the dynasty increased gradually from 26% in 1988 to 53% in 2019. Only municipal and city councilors have kept their dynasty share below 25% since 1987. The dynasty share for councilors had only increased from 18% in 1988 to 23% in 2019.

Tusalem and Pe-Aguirre's (2013) study noted that while congressional funds are higher in areas with more political dynasties, these provinces also have higher rates of crime and poor governance, as well as lower spending on employment, infrastructure, and health care. Political dynasties, in effect, have exhausted resources to attain economic and political dominance while at the same time compromising political competition and undermining accountability.

Calls to stop the monopoly of political power remain unyielding. It is time to break the barriers preventing the best and the brightest from serving the Filipino people.

Looking at the political, social, and economic impact of political dynasties, it is undeniable that the framers of our Constitution missed the opportunity to define it and embody the same in our Constitution. To merely state our policy against political dynasties and leave it to Congress to pass an enacting law to breathe life into it is futile since members of the Legislature come from political dynasties.

Given that this measure complies with the legislature's mandate to enact an anti-political dynasty law and is a step towards leveling the playing field in politics and governance, the passage thereof is earnestly sought.



**ROBINHOOD PADILLA**  
*Senator*



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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*Third Regular Session* )

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S. No. 2730

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Introduced by Senator Robinhood Padilla

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**AN ACT**  
**DEFINING AND PROHIBITING POLITICAL DYNASTIES, PROVIDING**  
**PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as "The Anti-Political Dynasty  
2 Law."

3

4 Sec. 2. Definition of Terms. The following terms, as used herein shall mean:

5

6 a. *Political Dynasty* refers to the concentration, consolidation, or perpetuation of  
7 political powers by persons related to one another;

8 b. *Political Dynasty Relationship* refers to the situation where a person who is the  
9 spouse or a relative within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity of  
10 an incumbent elective official holds or runs for an elective office simultaneously  
11 with the incumbent elective official within the same city and/or province, or as  
12 party-list nominee, or occupies the same office immediately after the term of  
13 office of the incumbent elective official;

14 A political dynasty relationship shall also be deemed to exist where two (2) or  
15 more persons who are spouses or related to one another within the fourth civil  
16 degree of consanguinity or affinity run simultaneously for elective public office



- 1 within the same city and/or province, or as nominees to any party-list, even if  
2 neither is so related to the incumbent elective official;
- 3 c. *Fourth Civil Degree of Consanguinity or Affinity* refers to the relationship  
4 between two people who descend from a common ancestor and are four steps,  
5 or degrees, apart on a consanguinity chart, whether legitimate or illegitimate,  
6 full or half blood, including their spouses;
- 7 d. *Spouse* refers to the legal or common-law wife or husband of an incumbent  
8 elective official or candidate;
- 9 e. Term Limits refers to the maximum term limits for elected public officials as  
10 provided for in the Constitution;
- 11 f. Running for an Elective Office refers to the period that commences upon the  
12 filing of the certificate of candidacy by a candidate with the Commission on  
13 Elections (COMELEC); and
- 14 g. Holding an Elective Office refers to the period that commences from the  
15 moment the public official takes his or her oath of office.

16

17 Sec. 3. Applicability. This Act shall apply to the next elections and all subsequent  
18 elections thereafter. In the case of incumbent elected officials who have political  
19 dynasty relationships with one another in the same city and/or province, they shall be  
20 allowed to run in all subsequent elections until they reach their term limit as provided  
21 by law.

22

23 Sec. 4. Persons Covered; Prohibited Candidates. No spouse or person related  
24 within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, whether legitimate or illegitimate,  
25 full or half blood, to an incumbent elective official seeking re-election, shall be allowed  
26 to hold or run for any elective office in the same city and/or province, or any party list  
27 in the same election.

28

29 In case the constituency of the incumbent elective official is national in  
30 character, the above relatives shall be disqualified from running only within the same  
31 city and/or province where the former is domiciled or in any, including the same,  
32 national position.

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In the case of candidates who are not holding any public office but are within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity but their election will result in a political dynasty relationship, the same is likewise prohibited. Provided, however, that the bona fide certificate of candidacy that was first filed will be recognized.

In all cases, no person who has a political dynasty relationship to the incumbent shall immediately succeed to the position of the latter.

Sec. 5. Statement with the Commission on Elections. Any person running for any elective public office shall file a sworn statement with the COMELEC that he or she is not among the prohibited candidates mentioned in the preceding section.

Sec. 6. Period for Filing of Petition for Disqualification. A petition to disqualify a candidate on grounds provided under this Act may be filed by any citizen of voting age, candidate or duly registered political party organization or coalition of political parties may file with the COMELEC, at any time after the last day for filing of certificates of candidacy and before proclamation.

Sec. 7. Summary Proceedings. The petition shall be heard and decided summarily by the COMELEC, after due notice and hearing, and its decision shall be executory after the lapse of five (5) days from receipt thereof by the losing party.

Sec. 8. Effect of Violation of Prohibition. The COMELEC shall, *motu proprio* or upon the filing of a verified petition by any interested party, deny due course to any certificate of candidacy filed in violation of this Act, and the votes cast for the disqualified candidate, if any, shall not be counted nor shall such candidate be proclaimed nor be qualified to assume office.

Violation of this Act and the rules and regulations of the COMELEC issued to implement this Act shall also constitute an election offense punishable under the first

1 and second paragraphs of Section 264 of the Omnibus Election Code (Batas Pambansa  
2 Blg. 881)

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4       Sec. 9. Effect of Petition If Unresolved Before Completion of Canvass. If the  
5 petition, for reasons beyond the control of the COMELEC cannot be decided before  
6 the completion of the canvass, the votes cast for the respondent shall be included in  
7 the counting and canvassing: *Provided, however,* that if the basis for such  
8 disqualification is strong, his or her proclamation shall be suspended notwithstanding  
9 the fact that he or she received the winning number of votes in the election. In case  
10 where the disqualified candidate has been proclaimed, the candidate shall *ipso facto*  
11 forfeit the right to assume the office.

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13       Sec. 10. Rules and Regulations. The Commission on Elections shall, within thirty  
14 (30) days after the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the necessary rules and  
15 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

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17       Sec. 11. Separability Clause. If any part of this Act is held invalid or  
18 unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and effective.

19

20       Sec. 12. Repealing Clause. All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or  
21 part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified  
22 or amended accordingly.

23

24       Sec. 13. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
25 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*