

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

7 JUL 18 1975

SENATE
S. B. No. 1300

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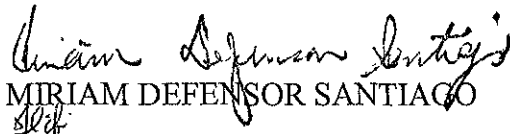
Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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” by becoming 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, opportunities and chances, 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, the 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 are women; and that at least one of the first three positions be occupied by a woman nominee.*


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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

1 REPRESENTATIVES, BE DONE BY DRAWING LOTS, WITH AT LEAST
2 ONE OF THE FIRST THREE POSITIONS TO BE OCCUPIED BY A WOMAN
3 NOMINEE.

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

14 SECTION 2. Section 11 of the same law is hereby amended to read as follows:

15 “Sec. 11. Number of Party-List Representatives. – The party-list
16 representative shall constitute twenty percentum (20%) of the total number of the
17 members of the House of Representative including those under the party-list.

18 For the purposes of the May 1998 election, the first five (5) major political
19 parties on the basis of party representation in the House of Representatives at the
20 start of the Tenth Congress of the Philippines AND NEW POLITICAL PARTIES
21 FORMED BY THE DISQUALIFIED POLITICAL PARTIES AS
22 DETERMINED BY THEIR MEMBERSHIP OR AFFILIATION shall not be
23 entitled to participate in the party-list system.

24 In determining the allocation of seats for the second vote, the following
25 procedures shall be observed:

- 26 a) the parties, organizations, and coalitions shall be ranked from the highest
27 to the lowest based on the number of votes they garnered during the
28 elections.

1 b) the parties, organizations, and coalitions receiving at least two percent
2 (2%) of the total votes cast for the party list system shall be entitled to one
3 seat each: *Provided, That those garnering more than two percent (2%) of*
4 *the votes shall be entitled to additional seats in proportion to their total*
5 *number of votes: [Provided further, That half of those appointed under the*
6 *party-list must be women:] Provided, finally, That each party,*
7 *organization, or coalition shall be entitled to not more than three (3)*
8 *seats.”*

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

12 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause. – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or*
13 *unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall*
14 *remain valid and subsisting.*

15 SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its*
16 *publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.*

17 *Approved,*