

7 FEB 19 P4:26

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
THIRD REGULAR SESSION)

RECEIVED BY: July

SENATE

S.B. No. 2618

Introduced by SENATOR ALFREDO S. LIM

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Congress is primarily tasked by the Constitution to be the sole law-making body of the Republic and the Executive Department of which the President is its Chief being mandated to carry out and implement laws as well as to run the affairs of the State.

The multifarious aspects of running the government are better addressed to the Executive Department and its agencies whose officials are expected to have expertise, knowledge and coordinated programming or planning in carrying out or implementing infrastructure projects, social and medical programs as well as educational and livelihood programs.

While we can not belittle the capabilities of Members of Congress to undertake similar projects, they, however, must

exclusively confine themselves to law-making and all aspects involved in legislative mills.

Thus, there appears to be no convincing justification to provide Members of Congress with pork barrel or similar funds for some projects which otherwise could be effectively carried out by the Executive Department.

Besides, it is the general consensus that pork barrel is oftentimes the source of graft and corruption since, more often than not, projects are cornered for certain fees. It is even noticed that, just to be able to get a fat chunk of the fund, there are projects which are being done which, in the first place, should not have been so, as there are other priorities to attend to.

Rather than, therefore, earmark public funds for such pork barrel, it will be economically frugal for the country to do away with it because, for the Senate alone, at ₱200 million for each Senator, the country needs to spend ₱4.8 billion and for the House at ₱70 million for each Representative, the country needs ₱17.5 billion or a total of ₱22.3 billion.

This tremendous savings may otherwise be utilized for the payment of foreign debts.


ALFREDO S. LIM

7 FEB 19 P4:26

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
THIRD REGULAR SESSION)

RECEIVED BY: JWJ

SENATE

S.B. No. 2618

Introduced by SENATOR ALFREDO S. LIM

AN ACT

ABOLISHING ALL FORMS OF CONGRESSIONAL
"PORK BARREL" OR APPROPRIATIONS THAT PROVIDE FUNDS
TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS INTENDED FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE
PUBLIC WORKS, SOCIAL, LIVELIHOOD, DEVELOPMENT OR
REHABILITATION AND OTHER PROJECTS THAT APPROPRIATELY
APPERTAIN TO THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of

2 Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

3 SECTION 1. *Abolition of Pork Barrel.* - Any provision of law,
4 rules and regulations to the contrary notwithstanding Members of the
5 Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the
6 Philippines shall henceforth be prohibited from availing, demanding,
7 receiving or collecting from the Department of Budget and
8 Management, and the latter being hereby enjoined from releasing to

1 said Members, any amount earmarked or appropriated as items in
2 the General Appropriations Act or Supplemental Budget intended as
3 "pork barrel" or "development funds" for their respective public
4 works, social, livelihood, development, rehabilitation or similar
5 projects, the implementation or execution of which
6 appropriately pertain to the appropriate agencies of the
7 Executive Department.

8 SECTION 2. *Applicability of the Abolition.* - The
9 abrogation of the pork barrel privileges of Members of Congress
10 shall apply to "pork barrel" appropriations to be availed of after July
11 1, 2007

12 SECTION 3. *Repeal.* - Provisions of the General Appropriations Act
13 or Supplemental Budget and other laws that provide for "pork barrel"
14 or "development funds", for public works, social, livelihood,
15 development, rehabilitation and similar projects, the
16 implementation or execution of which appropriately pertain to the
17 appropriate agencies of the Executive Department, are
18 hereby repealed.

19 SECTION 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen
20 (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general
21 circulation.

Approved _____