Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 1931

Introduced by
BAYAN MUNA Reps. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE,
FERDINAND R. GAITE and EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT,
ACT TEACHERS Party-List Rep. FRANCE L. CASTRO,
GABRIELA Women’s Party Rep. ARLENE D. BROSAS
and KABATAAN Party-List Rep. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THROUGH THE
COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS, TO INQUIRE, IN
AID OF LEGISLATION AS TO THE PROCESS AND CURRENT RULE OF
RAFFLING THE NAMES OF QUALIFIED PARTY-LIST CANDIDATES THAT
WILL BE REFLECTED IN THE BALLOT DURING THE CONDUCT OF THE
NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the passage of R.A. 7945, also known as the Party-list System Act, is vital in
fulfilling the Constitutional mandate to provide proportional representation to the marginalized
and underrepresented sectors. The law also provided an opportunity, small it may have been, for
these sectors to be represented in the House of Representatives, which historically is dominated
by rich clans and sections of the political elite;

WHEREAS, before the passage of R.A. 9369, or the Automated Elections Act in 2007,
partylists - elected at-large nationwide - have their names written in a pre-allocated part of the
ballot and have based their campaigns on promoting the respective name of the partylist itself;

WHEREAS, the ballot format of the Automated Elections has prompted several partylist
groups to register party names starting with the number 1 or letter A, to take advantage of the
sequential arrangement of partylist names in the automated elections ballot sheet. This
prompted issuance by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) of Resolution No. 9467 that
mandates the raffling of the ballot numbers for the candidates in the partylist elections;

WHEREAS, the so-called “raffle” system for partylists has shifted the campaign from simply
relying on the party’s name to campaigning for a specific number assigned to a particular party,
which changes every election;

WHEREAS, instead of relying on their existing advocacies as an electoral campaign strategy, a
partylist now focus instead on campaigning via its assigned number. As a result, the potential
voters have difficulty on relying mainly on the partylist’s name, as the list of partylist candidates
are shuffled;
WHEREAS, other candidates in the National and Local Elections that are elected at-large have
their names arranged sequentially, and, there is no reason that similar treatment should be made
on the names of candidates for the partylist elections, even with names starting in numbers
(e.g., “1-A”, “11-A”, “1-x” etc.) or letter A (e.g., “A-x”, “AA-x”). Alphabetical and sequential
listing of party-list candidates would still be beneficial to all party-list groups, since the voters can
still find their supported party-list candidate based on the said arrangement -- the party-list
groups can still bank on their respective registered names;

WHEREAS, partylists who have less resources are in a massive disadvantage against richer
partylists who can devote tons of airtime in traditional and social media to simply campaign or
promote their respective assigned numbers, which runs counter to the original intent of the
Partylist System Act of giving proportional representation to the marginalized and
underrepresented sectors;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 Pandemic, still currently raging in the country, is expected to
extend up until the campaign period for the 2022 National and Local Elections, thus, face-to-
face campaign methods will be very limited and will shift to various digital and media platforms.
This situation will result to less people and electorates being reached by campaign paraphernalia
and information, especially about the party-lists. Also, more areas may not be covered by
campaign sorties;

WHEREAS, the limitations that will be brought about by the COVID-19 protocols in the
election day itself will also make it harder for voters to easily look for their desired party-list group
if the list is not sequentially arranged, as staying inside an indoor area for an extended amount of
time is expected to be highly discouraged;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the House Of Representatives, through the
Committee on Suffrage And Electoral Reforms, to inquire, in aid of legislation, on the process
and present disadvantageous rule of raffling the names of qualified party-list candidates to be
reflected in the ballot during the conduct of the national and local elections.
Adopted,

REP. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FERDINAND R. GAITE
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. EUFEMIA C. CULLAMAT
Bayan Muna Partylist

REP. FRANCE L. CASTRO
ACT Teachers Partylist

REP. ARLENE D. BROSAS
GABRIELA Women’s Party

REP. SARAH JANE I. ELAGO
Kabataan Partylist

[Signatures]