

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**553**  
HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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| HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES                     |
| <b>RECEIVED</b>                              |
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Introduced by: **REP. RAUL V. DEL MAR**

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 1, Article XI of the 1987 Constitution provides that public office is a public trust. Public officers and employees must at all times be accountable to the people, serve them with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency, act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives. Although these precepts are laudable, the pervasiveness of graft and corruption remains a reality in Philippine society.

The Office of the Ombudsman is tasked to investigate on its own or on complaint by any person, any act or omission of any public official, employee, office or agency, when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient. Though zealous the men and women of the Office of the Ombudsman, themselves government officials and employees, are not spared from challenges brought about by numerous harassment suits filed against them by disgruntled litigants. Moreover, their personal safety and the safety of their family are at constant risk due to the high-profile cases they are handling.

Furthermore, despite the enormity of their task of battling graft and corruption, the salary of Ombudsman employee is still not comparable to that of their counterparts in other government agencies and in other anti-graft and corruption bodies in the Asia-Pacific Region.

With the enactment of this bill into law, it is believed that the enhancement of the welfare of the country's graftbusters will strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman *as an institution* in its fight against graft and corruption.



RAUL V. DEL MAR

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 553

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Introduced by: REP. RAUL V. DEL MAR

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AN ACT  
TO STRENGTHEN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN BY ENHANCING FISCAL  
AUTONOMY, UPGRADING EMPLOYEE SKILLS, AND AUGMENTING COMPENSATION,  
ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
6770, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMBUDSMAN ACT OF 1989, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** This Act shall be known as "Strengthening the Office  
of the Ombudsman Act".

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** The Philippines, as signatory to the United  
Nations Convention Against Corruption, is obliged to implement anti-corruption  
measures, through laws, institutions and practices, towards achieving national  
development. As the primary anti-corruption agency of the government, the Office  
of the Ombudsman is mandated to implement the provisions of the Convention.

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to strengthen the Office of the  
Ombudsman by enhancing its fiscal autonomy, upgrading employee skills and

augmenting compensation, allowances, and benefits of its officials and employees in order to attract and retain the best and the brightest in the Office of the Ombudsman as an anti-corruption agency of the government for a successful investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.

**SEC. 3.** Section 6 of R.A. No. 6770 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**“SEC. 6. Rank and Salary.** – The Ombudsman and his Deputies shall have the same ranks, salaries and privileges as the Chairman and members, respectively, of a Constitutional Commission. Their salaries shall not be decreased during their term of office.

THE MEMBERS OF THE PROSECUTION, INVESTIGATION, LEGAL, CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, AS OF THE DATE OF EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, SHALL RECEIVE THE SAME SALARIES, ALLOWANCES, EMOLUMENTS AND OTHER PRIVILEGES, INCLUDING THE SAME RETIREMENT AND OTHER BENEFITS, AS THOSE OF A JUSTICE OR JUDGE OF A COMPARABLE LEVEL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

| OMBUDSMAN POSITIONS   | COMPARABLE POSITIONS IN JUDICIARY         |
|---|---|
| OMBUDSMAN   | ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT    |
| DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR  | ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS |
| ASSISTANT OMBUDSMAN, DEPUTY SPECIAL PROSECUTOR                              | REGIONAL TRIAL COURT JUDGE                |
| MEMBERS OF THE PROSECUTION, INVESTIGATION, LEGAL, CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND | METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT JUDGE            |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN WITH SALARY GRADE 28</b>  |   |
| <b>MEMBERS OF THE PROSECUTION, INVESTIGATION, LEGAL, CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN WITH SALARY GRADE 27</b>  | <b>CITY TRIAL COURT JUDGE</b>   |
| <b>MEMBERS OF THE PROSECUTION, INVESTIGATION, LEGAL, CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, WITH SALARY GRADE 26</b> | <b>MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT JUDGE AND/OR MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT JUDGE</b> |

ANY INCREASE AFTER THE APPROVAL OF THIS ACT IN THE SALARIES, ALLOWANCES OR RETIREMENT BENEFITS OR ANY UPGRADING OF THE GRADES OR LEVELS THEREOF OF ANY OR ALL OF THE JUSTICES OR JUDGES REFERRED TO HEREIN TO WHOM SAID EMOLUMENTS ARE ASSIMILATED SHALL APPLY TO THE OMBUDSMAN, DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, ASSISTANT OMBUDSMAN, DEPUTY SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE PROSECUTION, INVESTIGATION, LEGAL, CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN.

SUBJECT TO SECTION 6-C HEREOF, THE SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND BENEFITS MENTIONED IN THE NEXT PRECEDING PARAGRAPH SHALL BE PAID ENTIRELY OUT OF NATIONAL FUNDS AND INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO AUGMENTATION FROM OTHER SOURCES.

**SEC. 4.** Section 6 of R.A. No. 6770 is further amended by inserting Section 6-A, 6-B, 6-C and 6-D to read as follows:

**"SEC. 6-A. RETIREMENT BENEFITS.** - THE OMBUDSMAN, DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, ASSISTANT OMBUDSMAN, DEPUTY SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE PROSECUTION, INVESTIGATION, LEGAL, CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 6 HEREOF, WHO HAVE RENDERED AT LEAST FIFTEEN (15) YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE, THE LAST FIVE (5) OF WHICH ARE WITH THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, AND HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE (65), SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A RETIREMENT PENSION BASED ON THE HIGHEST MONTHLY SALARY, PLUS THE HIGHEST MONTHLY AGGREGATE OF TRANSPORTATION, LIVING AND REPRESENTATION ALLOWANCES, WHICH THEY WERE RECEIVING AT THE TIME OF THEIR RETIREMENT.

THOSE WHO HAVE RENDERED SERVICE FOR THE SAME PERIOD AND WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF SIXTY (60) AND OPT TO RETIRE SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO THE SAME BENEFIT.

UPON THE DEATH OF A RETIRED OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE RECEIVING PENSION BENEFITS UNDER THIS ACT, THE SURVIVING SPOUSE SHALL BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE ALL THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS THAT THE DECEASED EMPLOYEE WOULD HAVE RECEIVED HAD HE/SHE NOT DIED. THE SURVIVING SPOUSE SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE SUCH RETIREMENT BENEFITS UNTIL THE SURVIVING SPOUSE REMARRIES OR DIES.

ALL PENSION BENEFITS OF THE OMBUDSMAN, DEPUTY OMBUDSMAN, SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, ASSISTANT OMBUDSMAN, DEPUTY SPECIAL PROSECUTOR, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE PROSECUTION, INVESTIGATION, LEGAL, CORRUPTION PREVENTION AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN SHALL BE AUTOMATICALLY INCREASED WHENEVER THERE IS AN INCREASE IN THE SALARY OF THE SAME POSITION FROM WHICH HE/SHE RETIRED.

