



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5661

BY REPRESENTATIVES QUIMBO, TUGNA, AGLIPAY-VILLAR, TAN (A.), SUANSING (E.), SUANSING (H.), RODRIGUEZ (M.), ALVAREZ (P.), MACEDA, BRAVO (A.), GARCIA (G.), PADUANO, BERTIZ, ORTEGA (P.), CUARESMA, GARIN (S.), CASTRO (F.L.), ROMUALDO, RAMIREZ-SATO, NOGRALES (K.A.), DEL MAR, DIMAPORO (M.K.), DUAVIT, GARIN (R.), JAVIER, LEACHON, SALCEDA, ACOSTA, CUA, HOFER, LIMKAICHONG, NAVA, SANTOS-RECTO, VILLANUEVA, ZAMORA (M.C.), NIETO, ABAYON AND BRAVO (M.V.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 241

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

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

1 SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy
2 of the State to make voting convenient for senior citizens and persons with
3 disabilities (PWDs) by giving them the option to vote earlier than the date set
4 for the election.

5 SEC. 2. *Early Voting.* – For national and local elections, there shall be
6 early voting where senior citizens and PWDs qualified to vote early may
7 choose to cast their ballot at accessible establishments designated by the
8 Commission on Elections (COMELEC) within seven (7) working days before
9 the date set for the election.

1 SEC. 3. *Registration.* – There shall be a nationwide registration for
2 senior citizens and PWDs who may wish to avail of their early voting
3 privileges to qualify them for early voting. Those who are not registered under
4 this Act shall vote on Election Day.

5 SEC. 4. *Obligations of the COMELEC.* – To ensure the smooth
6 implementation of this Act, the COMELEC shall:

7 (a) Keep a record of senior citizens and PWDs who are registered
8 voters;

9 (b) In coordination with local government units, the National Council
10 on Disability Affairs, the Commission on Human Rights, the Department of
11 Health and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, design a
12 registration system that shall allow senior citizens and PWDs to register and
13 opt for early voting in order to improve their voting experience in national and
14 local elections;

15 (c) Ensure the full implementation of Republic Act No. 10366, entitled
16 “An Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts
17 Assigned to Accessible Polling Places Exclusively for Persons with
18 Disabilities and Senior Citizens”, such that polling places are safe, highly
19 accessible and fitted with the necessary communication, visual and physical
20 aids; and

21 (d) Mount an intensive information campaign on early voting by
22 qualified senior citizens and PWDs.

23 SEC. 5. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to fund early voting
24 by qualified senior citizens and PWDs in national and local elections shall be
25 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

26 SEC. 6. *Applicability of Other Laws.* – The provisions of Batas
27 Pambansa Blg. 881 or the Omnibus Election Code; Republic Act No. 7166,
28 entitled “An Act Providing for Synchronized National and Local Elections and
29 for Electoral Reforms, Authorizing Appropriations Therefor, and for Other

1 Purposes"; and other election laws not inconsistent herewith shall be applied
2 to facilitate the early voting by qualified senior citizens and PWDs.

3 SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90)
4 days from the approval of this Act, the COMELEC shall, in consultation with
5 other relevant government and nongovernment agencies, promulgate the rules
6 and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

7 SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is
8 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not
9 affected shall remain in full force and effect.

10 SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
11 orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions
12 of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

13 SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
14 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general
15 circulation.

Approved,

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