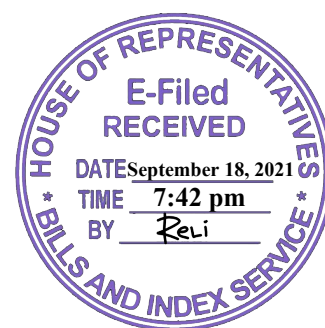


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session



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**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1228**

Submitted by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms on September 18, 2021.

Re : House Resolution No. 2231

Recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 2128 and 2139

Sponsors : Representatives Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer, Sarah Jane I. Elago, and Edgar R. Erice

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Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms, to which was referred the following House Resolutions:

House Resolution No. 2124 introduced by Representatives Sarah Jane I. Elago, France L. Castro, Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand R. Gaité, Eufemia C. Cullamat, and Arlene D. Brosas, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION TO DETER MASSIVE VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

and

House Resolution No. 2139 introduced by Representatives Edgar R. Erice, Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Francis Gerald A. Abaya, Isagani S. Amatong, Emmanuel A. Billones, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Edgardo M. Chatto, Paul R. Daza, Mujiv S. Hataman, Edcel C. Lagman, Romulo Peña Jr., Stella Luz S. Quimbo, Josephine Y. Ramirez-Sato, and Alfonso V. Umali Jr., entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR VOTER REGISTRATION FROM SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 TO OCTOBER 31, 2021 TO PREVENT VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC”

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Resolution No. 2231, entitled:

**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR**  
**VOTER REGISTRATION IN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD TO PREVENT VOTER**  
**DISENFRANCHISEMENT IN VIEW OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES AND**  
**TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ADOPTED TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE**  
**CORONAVIRUS DISEASE**

be adopted in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 2128 and 2139 with Reps. Sarah Jane I. Elago, France L. Castro, Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand R. Gaité, Eufemia C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas, Edgar R. Erice, Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Francis Gerald A. Abaya, Isagani S. Amatong, Emmanuel A. Billones, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Edgardo M. Chatto, Paul R. Daza, Mujiv S. Hataman, Edcel C. Lagman, Romulo Peña Jr., Stella Luz S. Quimbo, Josephine Y. Ramirez-Sato, Alfonso V. Umali Jr., and Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer as authors thereof

Respectfully submitted:



**HON. JULIET MARIE DE LEON FERRER**

Chairperson

Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

**HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2231**

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Introduced by Honorable Representatives Sarah Jane I. Elago, France L. Castro, Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ferdinand R. Gaite, Eufemia C. Cullamat, Arlene D. Brosas, Edgar R. Erice, Jocelyn S. Limkaichong, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Francis Gerald A. Abaya, Isagani S. Amatong, Emmanuel A. Billones, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Edgardo M. Chatto, Paul R. Daza, Mujiv S. Hataman, Edcel C. Lagman, Romulo Peña Jr., Stella Luz S. Quimbo, Josephine Y. Ramirez-Sato, Alfonso V. Umali Jr., and Juliet Marie de Leon Ferrer

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**RESOLUTION**  
**URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE**  
**FOR VOTER REGISTRATION IN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD TO**  
**PREVENT VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT IN VIEW OF THE HEALTH**  
**AND SAFETY MEASURES AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ADOPTED TO**  
**PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) is constitutionally-mandated  
2 to “enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an  
3 election, plebiscite, initiative, referendum, and recall” and has the power to  
4 determine periods to accomplish pre-election activities such as voter registration;

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, registration is part and parcel of the right to vote and an indispensable  
7 element in the election process;

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, under Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8189 or the *Voter’s Registration Act*  
10 *of 1996*, the COMELEC is mandated to establish a system of continuing registration  
11 of voters, which activity shall cease one hundred twenty (120) days before a regular  
12 election and ninety (90) days before a special election;

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, on March 9, 2020, COMELEC suspended voter registration starting  
15 March 10, 2020 due to COVID-19, and after a series of extensions, voter registration  
16 was suspended until August 31, 2020 which approximately covered a period of more  
17 than five and a half months, or 28.3% of the entire registration period;

1 **WHEREAS**, on August 12, 2020, the COMELEC promulgated COMELEC Resolution  
2 No. 10674 which suspended registration in many areas placed under enhanced  
3 community quarantine (ECQ) and modified enhanced community quarantine  
4 (MECQ) status, affecting major urban centers such as Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal,  
5 Laguna, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, and other places at different periods, each period  
6 lasting at least two weeks;

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, based on reports from different migrant workers groups, many Filipinos  
9 in the diaspora continue to face registration issues since Philippine embassies and  
10 consulates worldwide have very limited time to accommodate registrants;

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the same migrant workers groups reported that registering as overseas  
13 voters entails exorbitant costs since they are required to present themselves for  
14 biometrics capture in Philippine embassies and consulates which sometimes are  
15 located in areas far from their place of work, or in another country which thus  
16 requires travel and lodging;

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, in the meeting of the Senate Committee on Electoral Reforms and  
19 People's Participation ~~meeting~~ on February 18, 2021, the Philippine Statistics  
20 Authority (PSA) reported that the projected voting population for the 2022 national  
21 and local elections is at 73.3 million;

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, as of June 2021, the COMELEC reported that there are only around 60  
24 million registered voters, indicating therefore that around 13 million Filipinos here  
25 and abroad remain unregistered;

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, while the COMELEC needs ample time to prepare the final list of voters  
28 which is a prerequisite for the preparation of the Project of Precincts (POP), extending  
29 the deadline for voters registration will neither unduly hamper nor delay the  
30 COMELEC's preparation of the POP as in fact, the voters registration period in  
31 previous national and local elections extended at least until October 31:

32

National and Local Elections	Voter Registration Deadline
2001	December 27, 2000
2004	October 31, 2003
2007	December 31, 2006
2010	January 09, 2010
2013	October 31, 2012
2016	October 31, 2015

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, the Supreme Court recognized COMELEC's power to set the deadline of  
35 voter's registration provided that no registration may be done during the period  
36 starting one hundred twenty (120) days before a regular election<sup>1</sup>;

1 **WHEREAS**, the setting of the September 30, 2021 voter's registration deadline by  
2 the COMELEC did not anticipate the adverse impact of the pandemic which led to  
3 many eligible voters unable to register;

4

5

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the  
7 House of Representatives urge the Commission on Elections to extend the deadline  
8 for voter registration in the country and abroad to prevent voter disenfranchisement  
9 in view of the health and safety measures and travel restrictions adopted to prevent  
10 the spread of the coronavirus disease.

11

12

13 *Adopted,*