

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5590

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INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMEN CHAVES, MASTURA, CON-  
GRESSWOMEN LABARIA, ALMARIO, CONGRESSMEN  
VALDEZ, UNICO, BANDON, JR., AND MATALAM

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AN ACT CREATING THE REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE  
COMMISSION FOR MUSLIM MINDANAO, PRE-  
SCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

1       SECTION 1. *Title of the Act.* — This Act shall be known  
2       as “The Regional Consultative Commission Act of 1988  
3       for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.”

4       SEC. 2. *Purpose of the Commission.* — It shall be the  
5       purpose of the Regional Consultative Commission to assist  
6       and participate in the formulation of the Organic Act to  
7       be enacted by Congress for the Autonomous Region in  
8       Muslim Mindanao.

9       SEC. 3. *Composition of the Commission.* — There is

1 hereby created the Regional Consultative Commission,  
2 hereinafter referred to as the "Commission," composed of  
3 not more than fifty (50) Commissioners to be appointed  
4 by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the  
5 Commission on Appointments from a list of nominees  
6 proposed by the different multi-sectoral bodies coming  
7 from the provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga  
8 del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, North Cotabato, Maguin-  
9 danao, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur,  
10 Davao del Sur, South Cotabato and Palawan, as well as  
11 the chartered City of Zamboanga: *Provided*, That each  
12 of the twenty-seven (27) legislative districts in the above-  
13 mentioned provinces and city shall have at least one (1)  
14 representative, and: *Provided, further*, That the ethnic group  
15 should be properly represented.

16 SEC. 4. *Qualifications*. — No person shall be appointed  
17 member of the Commission unless he is a natural-born  
18 citizen of the Philippines, at least eighteen (18) years of  
19 age at the time of his appointment, a resident of any of the  
20 provinces or cities specified in Section 3 hereof for at least  
21 five (5) consecutive years, a registered voter, and of re-  
22 cognized and known probity, integrity, adequate educational  
23 qualification, independence and nationalism.

24 SEC. 5. *Disqualifications*. — The following are dis-

1 qualified from being members of the Commission:

2 a) Public Officials; and

3 b) Persons convicted by final judgment of a crime  
4 involving moral turpitude.

5 **SEC. 6. Oath or Affirmation.** — Members of the Commis-  
6 sion shall qualify and assume office by taking the following  
7 oath or affirmation:

8 “I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I shall  
9 faithfully and conscientiously fulfill my duties as member  
10 of the Regional Consultative Commission for Mindanao  
11 to assist Congress in the enactment of an Organic Act for  
12 Muslim Mindanao that is truly reflective of the ideals and  
13 aspirations of its people, and preserve and defend the Con-  
14 stitution and laws of the Republic of the Philippines. So  
15 Help Me God.”

16 **SEC. 7. Organization.** — (a) The Office of the President  
17 of the Philippines shall take charge of all arrangements for  
18 the convening of the Regional Consultative Commission.

19 (b) The Commission shall be convened by the President  
20 of the Philippines or her duly authorized representative  
21 within fifteen (15) days after the approval of this Act.  
22 The opening session shall be held in the City of Zamboanga  
23 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning.

24 (c) The President of the Philippines or her duly

1 authorized representative shall preside at its opening session  
2 until a presiding officer is elected by the Commission. The  
3 Commission shall be deemed organized upon the election  
4 and qualification of a Chairman and presiding officer.

5 (d) A majority of all its members shall constitute a  
6 quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn  
7 from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent  
8 members in such manner and under such penalties as the  
9 Commission may provide.

10 (e) The Commission may determine the rules of its  
11 proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior,  
12 and with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its members,  
13 expel a member.

14 (f) The Commissioners shall hold office in their res-  
15 pective districts. The Commission Secretariat shall be based  
16 in Metropolitan Manila.

17 (g) The plenary sessions of the Commission shall be  
18 public and duly recorded. It shall hold its sessions in Metro-  
19 politan Manila: *Provided*, That the Commission or any of its  
20 committees may also hold sessions in any other place in the  
21 Philippines whenever the Commission deems it necessary.

22 Consultations with committees of either House of  
23 Congress shall be held at their respective seats in Metro-  
24 politan Manila.

1 (h) The buildings of the *Sangguniang Pampook* and  
2 its facilities in the Cities of Zamboanga and Cotabato are  
3 hereby made available for the use of the Commission when-  
4 ever necessary.

5 SEC. 8. *Filling of Vacancies.* — Whenever a permanent  
6 vacancy occurs in the Commission, the President may,  
7 upon due certification by the Chairman of the Commission,  
8 and subject to the approval of the Commission on Appoint-  
9 ments, fill the vacancy by appointment after consultation  
10 with the group or sector represented by the member who  
11 caused such vacancy.

12 SEC. 9. *Drafting of the Organic Act.* — (a) The Commis-  
13 sion shall prepare and submit to Congress its recom-  
14 mendations on a proposed Organic Act within one hundred  
15 and fifty (150) calendar days from its organization. The  
16 recommendations shall be the product of district consul-  
17 tations and Commission meetings.

18 (b) Direct popular consultations at the district level  
19 shall be undertaken by each member of the Commission,  
20 together with his Congressman, to ensure that the Organic  
21 Act shall embody the ideals, sentiments and aspirations of  
22 the people. The active participation of non-governmental  
23 organizations (NGO's) shall be ensured during such con-  
24 sultations.

1 (c) The Commission shall ensure that all resolutions  
2 and views presented or submitted to it are properly  
3 documented. The results of the consultations shall be made  
4 available to the general public under such guidelines as the  
5 Commission may deem reasonable and necessary.

6 (d) The Commission or any of its committees may  
7 also accept resolutions or drafts presented directly to it  
8 during any of its hearing or deliberations.

9 SEC. 10. *Interaction with Congress.* — The Chairman  
10 of the Commission and other Committee Chairmen shall  
11 constitute the Executive Committee of the Commission  
12 which shall coordinate the work of the Commission with  
13 both Houses of Congress.

14 SEC. 11. *Plebiscite.* — The creation of the auto-  
15 nomous region shall be effective when approved by majority  
16 of the votes cast by the constituent units in a plebiscite  
17 called for the purpose on a date to be fixed by the Com-  
18 mission on Elections which shall not be later than sixty  
19 (60) days after the approval of the Organic Act: *Provided,*  
20 That only provinces and cities voting favorably in such  
21 plebiscite shall be included in the autonomous region.

22 SEC. 12. *Tenure.* — The Commission shall function  
23 until such time as the proposed Organic Act shall have  
24 been enacted by Congress.

1        **SEC. 13. Staffing.** — The Commission shall be responsible  
2 for maintaining its own Secretariat as well as such other  
3 staff as it may deem necessary.

4        Each Commissioner shall also be entitled to a personal  
5 staff of two (2) composed of an executive assistant and  
6 a secretary.

7        **SEC. 14. Compensation.** — Each member shall be entitled  
8 to a monthly salary of Ten thousand pesos (P 10,000.00)  
9 and a living allowance of Five thousand pesos (P 5,000.00)  
10 per month, and actual travelling expenses not to exceed  
11 the amount of Five thousand pesos (P 5,000.00) a month.

12        **SEC. 15. Funding.** — The sum of Twenty-five million  
13 pesos is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the National  
14 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the pur-  
15 poses of this Act.

16        **SEC. 16. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect upon  
17 its approval.

Approved,



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