



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9562

BY REPRESENTATIVES SUANSING (E.), SUANSING (H.), AGLIPAY, TAN (A.), RODRIGUEZ, ALVAREZ (P.), MACEDA, ONG (R.), CASTELO, FERRER (J.M.), YAP (E.), TAMBUNTING, VERGARA, SY-ALVARADO, REYES, RAMOS, AGABAS, SAVELLANO, FARIÑAS (R.C.), BARBA, DALIPE, BAGATSING, ERMITA-BUHAIN, BAUTISTA-BANDIGAN, CUA, CUARESMA, FARIÑAS I (R.C.), GARCIA (J.E.), GASATAYA, GO (E.C.), SUAREZ (D.), TEJADA, VIOLAGO, BASCUG, BORDADO, CABREDO, DELOSO-MONTALLA, DIMAPORO (A.), DUJALI, GORRICETA, GULLAS, GUYA, LABADLABAD, MARINO, NAVA, SANCHEZ, TAN (A.S.), TIANGCO, TUTOR, ACOSTA-ALBA, BROSAS, GATO, ROMULO, SALO, SANGCOPAN, UMALI (M.V.), ORDANES, OLIVAREZ AND VILLARICA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1040

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING BY 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 of
2 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
4 set for the elections.

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

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7 **SEC. 3. Registration.** – There shall be a nationwide registration for
8 senior citizens and PWDs to qualify them to avail of this early voting
9 privilege. Those who are not registered under this Act shall vote on
10 Election Day.

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12 **SEC. 4. Obligations of the COMELEC.** – To ensure the effective
13 implementation of this Act, the COMELEC shall:

14 (a) Keep a record of senior citizens and PWDs who are registered
15 voters;

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17 (b) Design a registration system, in coordination with local government
18 units, the National Council on Disability Affairs, the Commission on
19 Human Rights, the Department of Health and the Department of Interior
20 and Local Government, that allows senior citizens and PWDs to register
21 and opt for early voting;

22 (c) Ensure that polling places are safe and accessible to senior citizens
23 and PWDs, and properly fitted with the necessary communication, visual
24 and physical aids, as mandated under Republic Act No. 10366 entitled,
25 An Act Authorizing the Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts
26 Assigned to Accessible Polling Places Exclusively for Persons with
27 Disabilities and Senior Citizens”; and

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29 (d) Mount an intensive information campaign on early voting for
30 qualified senior citizens and PWDs.

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32 **SEC 5. Appropriations.** – The initial amount for the implementation of
33 this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the
34 COMELEC. Thereafter, the funding of which shall be included in the
35 Annual General Appropriations Act.

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37 **SEC. 6. Applicability of Other Laws.** – The provisions of Batas
38 Pambansa Blg. 881 or the Omnibus Election Code; Republic Act No.
39 7166, entitled, “An Act Providing for Synchronized National and Local
40 Elections and for Electoral Reforms, Authorizing Appropriations Therefor,
41 and for Other Purposes”; and other election laws not inconsistent
42 herewith shall be applied to facilitate early voting for qualified senior
43 citizens and PWDs.

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45 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90)
46 days from its effectivity, the Commission shall promulgate the rules and
47 regulations for the implementation of this Act.
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1 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is
2 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not
3 affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

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5 **SEC 9. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees,
6 executive orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and
7 regulations or parts thereof, which are contrary to and inconsistent with
8 any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified
9 accordingly.

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

Approved,