



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7241

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMUALDEZ (F.M.), ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), ACIDRE, BARBERS, ONGCHUAN, MERCADO-REVILLA, REVILLA (B.), REVILLA (R.J.), VILLANUEVA, DALOG, CO (E.), MATUGAS, MATIBAG, CARDEMA, ARROGANCIA, CO-PILAR, KHONGHUN, TAN (K.M.), LOYOLA, FORTES, CAJAYON-UY, ORTEGA, GUTIERREZ, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, PALMA, DUTERTE, DY (F.), GARCIA (D.), BARONDA, BOLILIA, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, PUMAREN, SUAREZ, HERRERA, QUIMBO, ABANTE, ALONTE, ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), ARENAS, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CAMPOS, CARI, CELESTE, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DE VENECIA, DEL MAR, FUENTEBELLA, GO (E.C.), GONZAGA, HARESCO, LACSON, LARA, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, VIOLAGO, ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ABALOS, ADIONG, ADVINCULA, AMANTE, ANG, ASISTIO, ATAYDE, AUMENTADO, BASCUG, BOSITA, CHATTO, COJUANGCO (J.), CRUZ (A.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (S.A.), EUDELA, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (M.A.), GARDIOLA, GO (M.), HERNANDEZ, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MACEDA, MAGSINO, MANQUIZ, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.I.), OUANO-DIZON, PADUANO, PANALIGAN, PANCHO, PLAZA, PLEYTO, RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, TALLADO, TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VARGAS, VERGARA, VERZOSA, VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), YAP (C.), AGARAO, BENITEZ, BUHAIN, CORVERA, ECLEO, FLORES, GOMEZ, GUINTU, KHO (R.), MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, MARIÑO, ORDANES, ROMULO, SALCEDA, SAULOG, SILVERIO, SORIANO, TOLENTINO, VELOSO-TUAZON, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), YAP (EDVIC), ROMUALDO, RIVERA, TAN-TAMBU, RECTO, TANJUATCO, ALBANO, OLIVAREZ AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 329

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AND ADOPTING A SYSTEM OF ONLINE REGISTRATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 22, 23, 24, 29, 32, 33 AND 45 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8189, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "VOTER'S REGISTRATION ACT OF 1996"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of Republic Act No. 8189, otherwise known as "The Voter's
2 Registration Act of 1996", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3
4 "SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to [systematize the present
5 method of registration in order to establish a clean, complete, permanent, and
6 updated list of voters] **ESTABLISH A SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION THAT ENSURES
7 AND GUARANTEES A CLEAN, COMPLETE, PERMANENT, AND UPDATED LIST OF
8 VOTERS. TO ENCOURAGE AND ENSURE A CONTINUING SYSTEM OF VOTER
9 REGISTRATION, THE STATE SHALL ADOPT AND MAKE USE OF TECHNOLOGIES
10 THAT SHALL FACILITATE AND ALLOW THE AUTOMATED AND ONLINE
11 REGISTRATION OF VOTERS AS AN OPTION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE
12 INTEGRITY, COMPLETENESS, AND ACCURACY OF THE LIST OF VOTERS.**"

13
14 **SEC. 2.** Section 3 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

15
16 "SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

17
18 (a) *Registration* refers to the act of accomplishing and filing of a sworn application for
19 registration by a qualified voter **ONLINE OR** before the election officer of the city or
20 municipality wherein [he] **THE APPLICANT** resides and including the same in the
21 book of registered voters upon approval by the Election Registration Board.
22 **REGISTRATION LIKEWISE REFERS TO OTHER PROCESSES ATTENDANT TO
23 BEING A QUALIFIED VOTER SUCH AS THE REACTIVATION OF VOTER**

1 **REGISTRATION RECORDS, TRANSFER OF VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS,**
2 **AND CORRECTION OF ENTRIES THEREIN.**

3
4 x x x

5
6 (n) *Election Officer* refers to the highest official or authorized representative of the
7 Commission in a city or municipality; [and]

8
9 (o) *Board of Election Inspectors* refers to the body which conducts the election in the
10 polling place of the precinct usually composed of three (3) public school teachers
11 appointed by the Commission[.]; AND

12
13 **(P) *DISINTERESTED WITNESS* REFERS TO A REGISTERED VOTER IN THE SAME**
14 **BARANGAY WHERE THE APPLICANT SEEKS TO REGISTER AND WHO RESIDES**
15 **THEREAT, ATTESTING TO A CERTAIN FACT, THE IDENTITY, PERSONAL**
16 **CIRCUMSTANCES AND RESIDENCE OF THE APPLICANT, BUT HAS NO PERSONAL**
17 **ADVANTAGE OR DISADVANTAGE ON THE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF THE**
18 **APPLICANT'S VOTER REGISTRATION. A DISINTERESTED WITNESS SHOULD**
19 **NOT BE RELATED TO THE APPLICANT WITHIN THE FOURTH (4TH) CIVIL**
20 **DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT NO**
21 **DISINTERESTED WITNESS SHALL BE ALLOWED TO IDENTIFY MORE THAN**
22 **THREE (3) APPLICANTS."**

23
24 **SEC. 3.** Section 8 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

25
26 "SEC. 8. *System of Continuing Registration of Voters.* – The personal **OR ELECTRONIC**
27 filing of application [of] **FOR** registration of voters shall be conducted daily in the
28 office of the Election Officer during regular office hours[.] **OR THROUGH THE**
29 **OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF THE COMMISSION.** No registration shall, however, be
30 conducted [during the period starting] **WITHIN** one hundred twenty (120) days
31 before a regular election and ninety (90) days before a special election."

1 **SEC. 4.** Section 9 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 "SEC. 9. *Who may register.* – All citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified
3 by law who are at least eighteen (18) years of age, and who shall have resided in the
4 Philippines for at least one (1) year, and in the [place] **BARANGAY** wherein they
5 propose to vote, for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the election, may
6 register as a voter [,]: **PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT A PERSON SHALL BE ALLOWED**
7 **TO REGISTER BY PRESENTING ANY VALID PROOF OF RESIDENCE, SUCH AS THE**
8 **FOLLOWING:**

- 9
- 10 **A. TAX DECLARATION OR PROOF OF PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX, OR A**
11 **CERTIFICATION FROM THE LANDOWNER OR LESSOR OF RESIDENTIAL**
12 **UNIT, APARTMENT, CONDOMINIUM, DORMITORY OR SIMILAR DWELLING**
13 **UNITS WHERE THE APPLICANT IS RESIDING AT THE TIME OF**
14 **REGISTRATION;**
- 15 **B. A RECENT HOUSEHOLD UTILITY BILL FOR GAS, ELECTRIC, WATER,**
16 **TELEPHONE, CABLE, OR INTERNET CONSUMPTION, OR A STATEMENT OF**
17 **ACCOUNT FOR MOBILE PHONE SUBSCRIPTION OR CREDIT CARD, UNDER**
18 **THE APPLICANT'S NAME;**
- 19 **C. AFFIDAVIT OF AT LEAST TWO DISINTERESTED WITNESSES AS DEFINED IN**
20 **SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT THAT THE APPLICANT IS A RESIDENT OF THE PLACE**
21 **OF REGISTRATION; OR**
- 22 **D. OTHER COMPETENT PROOFS OF RESIDENCE DECIDED UPON AND**
23 **PROMULGATED BY THE COMMISSION.**
- 24

25 Any person who temporarily resides in another [city, municipality] **BARANGAY** or
26 **ANOTHER** country solely by reason of [his] **ONE'S** occupation, profession,
27 employment in private or public service, educational activities, work in the military
28 or naval reservations within the Philippines, service in the Armed Forces of the
29 Philippines, the National Police Forces, or confinement or detention in government
30 institutions in accordance with law, shall not be deemed to have lost [his] **THE**
31 original residence.

32

33 x x x"

1 **SEC. 5.** Section 10 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 "SEC. 10. *Registration of Voters.* – A qualified voter shall be registered in the
3 permanent list of voters in a precinct of the city or municipality [wherein he] **WHERE**
4 **THE VOTER** resides to be able to vote in any election. To register as a voter, [he]
5 **THE APPLICANT** shall personally **OR ELECTRONICALLY** accomplish an application
6 form for registration as prescribed by the Commission [in three (3) copies before the
7 Election Officer] **AND PERSONALLY SUBMIT THE ACCOMPLISHED FORM TO THE**
8 **OFFICE OF THE ELECTION OFFICER OF THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY WHERE**
9 **THE VOTER RESIDES** on any date during office hours, **OR THROUGH THE OFFICIAL**
10 **WEBSITE OF THE COMMISSION** [after having acquired the qualifications of a voter].

11
12 x x x

13
14 The application for registration [shall contain three (3) specimen signatures of the
15 applicant, clear and legible rolled prints of his left and right thumbprints, with four
16 (4) identification size copies of his latest photograph, attached thereto, to be taken at
17 the expense of the Commission] **MAY BE SUBMITTED PERSONALLY OR**
18 **ELECTRONICALLY AND SHALL BE PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
19 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10367 ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY**
20 **BIOMETRICS VOTER REGISTRATION" AT THE EXPENSE OF THE COMMISSION.**

21
22 Before the applicant accomplishes [his] **THE** application for registration, the Election
23 Officer shall inform [him] **THE APPLICANT** of the qualifications and disqualifications
24 prescribed by law for a voter, and thereafter, see to it that the accomplished
25 application contains all the data therein required and that the applicant's specimen
26 signatures, fingerprints, and photographs are properly affixed in [all copies of] the
27 voter's application.

28
29 **IN CASE OF ONLINE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION BY AN**
30 **APPLICANT, THE COMMISSION SHALL SEND A NOTICE CONFIRMING ITS**
31 **RECEIPT OF THE APPLICATION AND PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW THE**
32 **APPLICANT MAY CHECK THE STATUS OF THE APPLICATION.**

1 **FURTHERMORE, THE COMMISSION SHALL EMPLOY DATA SECURITY MEASURES**
2 **WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE ACCURACY AND INTEGRITY OF**
3 **ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATIONS.”**

4
5 **SEC. 6.** Section 12 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

6
7 *“SEC. 12. Change of Residence to another [City or Municipality] BARANGAY. – Any*
8 *registered voter who has transferred residence to another [city or municipality]*
9 *BARANGAY may apply with the Election Officer of [his] THE CITY OR*
10 *MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE VOTER’S new residence IS LOCATED for the*
11 *transfer of [his] THE VOTER’S registration records.*

12 **NO TRANSFER OF A VOTER’S REGISTRATION TO ANOTHER BARANGAY SHALL**
13 **BE ALLOWED WITHIN ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) DAYS BEFORE A**
14 **REGULAR ELECTION AND NINETY (90) DAYS BEFORE A SPECIAL ELECTION.**

15
16
17 The application for transfer of registration shall be subject to the requirements of
18 notice and hearing and the approval of the Election Registration Board, in accordance
19 with this Act. Upon approval of the application for transfer, and after notice of such
20 approval to the Election Officer of the former residence of the voter, said Election
21 Officer shall transmit by registered mail **OR OTHER MODES OF SAFE, SECURE AND**
22 **FAST TRANSMISSION** the voter’s registration record to the Election Officer of the
23 voter’s new residence.”

24
25 **SEC. 7.** Section 13 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

26
27 *“SEC. 13. Change of Address [in the same city or municipality]. – Any voter who has*
28 *changed [his] address [in the same city or municipality] WHICH SHALL NOT FALL*
29 *UNDER A CHANGE IN BARANGAY AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 12 OF*
30 *THIS ACT shall immediately notify the Election Officer in writing. If the change of*
31 *address involves a change in precinct, the Board shall transfer [his] THE registration*
32 *record to the [precinct] book of voters of [his] THE registration record to the*
33 *[precinct] book of voters of [his] THE new precinct and notify the voter of [his] THE*

1 new precinct. All changes of address shall be reported to the office of the provincial
2 election supervisor and the Commission in Manila.”

3
4 **SEC. 8.** Section 22 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:
5

6 “SEC. 22. Preservation of Voter’s Registration Records. – The Election Officer shall
7 compile the [original] copies of the approved applications for registration per
8 precinct, [and] arrange the same alphabetically according to surname[. He shall] **AND**
9 preserve the book of voters and ensure its integrity. [The second and third copies of
10 the registration records] **THE COPY OF THE APPROVED APPLICATION FOR**
11 **REGISTRATION SHALL BE SCANNED BY THE ELECTION OFFICER AND THE**
12 **SCANNED COPY** shall be sent to the provincial and national central files within [three
13 (3)] **FIVE (5)** days after the approval of the Board.
14

15 **ALL APPROVED APPLICATIONS FILED DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD IN**
16 **THE LOCAL VOTER’S DATABASE SHALL BE EXTRACTED AND STORED IN A**
17 **UNIVERSAL SERIAL BUS (USB) OR OTHER STORAGE DEVICES AND SENT TO**
18 **THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR AND**
19 **TO THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMISSION.”**
20

21 **SEC. 9.** Section 23 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:
22

23 “SEC. 23. *Provincial File.* – There shall be a provincial file consisting of the [duplicate]
24 **SCANNED** copies of all registration records in each precinct of every city and
25 municipality in the province. It shall be in the custody of the Provincial Election
26 Supervisor and shall be compiled and arranged by precinct, by municipality and
27 alphabetically by surnames of voters.
28

29 x x x”
30

31 **SEC. 10.** Section 24 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:
32

33 “SEC. 24. *National Central File.* – There shall be a national central file under the
34 custody of the Commission in Manila consisting of the [third] **SCANNED** copies of all

1 approved voter registration records in each city or municipality. It shall be compiled
2 by precinct in each city [/] **OR** municipality and arranged alphabetically by **DATE**
3 **OF BOARD HEARING** [surname so as to make the file replica of the book of voters in
4 the possession of the Election Officer. Thereafter a national list shall be prepared
5 following the alphabetical arrangements of surnames of voters].

6
7 [There shall be a national file consisting of the computerized voters' list (CVL), both
8 in print and in diskette,] **A COMPLETE FILE OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS SHALL**
9 **BE** submitted by the Election Officers [in] **OF** each city and municipality [concerned,
10 under the custody of] **TO** the Commission in Manila[.] **WHICH SHALL KEEP COPIES**
11 **OF THESE FILES IN ITS COMPUTERIZED DATABASE AND PRINTED RECORDS,**
12 **AND EXERCISE CUSTODIAL RESPONSIBILITY OVER THEM.**

13
14 x x x"

15
16 **SEC. 11.** Section 29 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

17
18 "SEC. 29. *Cancellation of Registration.* – The Board shall cancel the registration
19 records of those who have died as certified by the [Local Civil Registrar] **THE**
20 **PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA) ON A QUARTERLY BASIS. THE**
21 **PROCESSING FEES OF THE QUARTERLY CERTIFIED LIST OF PERSONS WHO DIED**
22 **AS REQUESTED BY THE COMMISSION TO PSA SHALL BE WAIVED.** The [Local Civil
23 Registrar] **PSA** shall submit each month a certified list of persons who died during
24 the previous month to the Election Officer of the place where the deceased are
25 registered. In the absence of information concerning the place where the deceased
26 are registered, the list shall be sent to the Election Officer of the city or municipality
27 of the deceased's residence as appearing in [his] **THE** death certificate. In any case,
28 the [Local Civil Registrar] **PSA** shall furnish a copy of this list to the national central
29 file and the proper provincial file.

30
31 **THE PSA SHALL ENSURE THAT ITS DATA PRIVACY NOTICE SUFFICIENTLY**
32 **INFORMS AFFECTED PARTIES THAT THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION IS TO BE**
33 **PROCESSED AND SHARED WITH THE COMMISSION TO ENABLE THE LATTER TO**

1 FULFILL ITS CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE TO INITIATE VOTER INCLUSION AND
2 EXCLUSION PROCEEDINGS AND TO ESTABLISH A CLEAN, COMPLETE,
3 PERMANENT, AND UPDATED LIST OF VOTERS UNDER THIS ACT, AND AS
4 ALLOWED BY SECTION 12(E) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OTHERWISE
5 KNOWN AS THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012.

6
7 x x x”

8
9 **SEC. 12.** Section 32 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

10
11 “SEC. 32. Common Rules Governing Judicial Proceedings in the Matter of Inclusion,
12 Exclusion, and Correction of Names of Voters. –

13
14 x x x

15
16 (d) No cost [s] shall be assessed against any party in these proceedings. However, if
17 the court should find that the application has been filed solely to harass [the adverse
18 party] and cause [him] **THE ADVERSE PARTY** to incur expenses, it shall order the
19 culpable party to pay the costs and incidental expenses. **NO COST SHALL LIKEWISE
20 BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE COMMISSION WHEN IT FILES A PETITION FOR
21 EXCLUSION;**

22
23 x x x”

24
25 **SEC. 13.** Section 33 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

26
27 “SEC. 33. *Jurisdiction in Inclusion and Exclusion Case.* – The Municipal and
28 Metropolitan Trial Courts shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over all cases
29 of inclusion and exclusion of voters in their respective cities or municipalities[.]:
30 **PROVIDED, THAT WHEN THE COMMISSION IS THE PETITIONER OF A CASE ON
31 EXCLUSION OF VOTERS, FILING AND OTHER COURT FEES SHALL BE WAIVED.**
32 Decisions of the Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Courts may be appealed by the
33 aggrieved party to the Regional Trial Court within five (5) days from receipt of notice
34 thereof. Otherwise, said decision shall become final and executory. The regional trial

1 court shall decide the appeal within ten (10) days from the time it is received and
2 the decision shall immediately become final and executory. No motion for
3 reconsideration shall be entertained.
4

5 **SEC. 14.** Section 45 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

6
7 "SEC. 45. *Election Offenses.* – The following shall be considered election offenses
8 under this Act:

9
10 x x x
11

12 (i) The posting of a list of voters outside or at the door of a precinct on the day of an
13 election, plebiscite, referendum, initiative and/or recall, and which list is different in
14 contents from the certified list of voters being used by the Board of Election
15 Inspectors; [and]

16
17 (j) [Violation of the provisions of this Act] **THE TRANSFER OF A VOTER'S**
18 **REGISTRATION OF RESIDENCE CONTRARY TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 12**
19 **OF THIS ACT; AND**

20
21 **(K) VIOLATION OF ANY OTHER PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.**
22

23 **SEC. 15. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act
24 shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the Commission on
25 Elections. Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General
26 Appropriations Act.
27

28 **SEC. 16. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within ninety (90) days from the
29 effectivity of this Act, the Commission on Elections, in consultation with the Department
30 of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Science and
31 Technology, Department of the Interior and Local Government, National Commission for
32 Senior Citizens, and other stakeholders shall promulgate the rules and regulations for
33 the effective implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
3 remain in force and effect.

4
5 **SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.*** – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders,
6 issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof, which are
7 contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby repealed,
8 amended or modified accordingly.

9
10 **SEC. 19. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
11 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,