



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7576

BY REPRESENTATIVES FERRER (J.M.), RODRIGUEZ (R.), TAN (K.M.), SUANSING (H.), SUANSING (M.A.), ORDANES, ONGCHUAN, ABALOS, DELOS SANTOS, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, ALVAREZ (P.), REVILLA (R.J.), MERCADO-REVILLA, REVILLA (B.), FARIÑAS, DALOG, CO (E.), MATUGAS, FLORES, CARDEMA, ARROGANCIA, BARZAGA, ARBISON, CO-PILAR, TANJUATCO, GUTIERREZ, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, ACIDRE, CASTRO (F.), KHO (O.), PANCHO, QUIMBO, MENDOZA, LIBANAN, ALBANO, GARIN, GONZALEZ, PALMA, TEVES (J.), ALVAREZ (M.), ALVAREZ (J.), AQUINO, BAUTISTA-LIM, BERNOS, BONGALON, CABREDO, CAJAYON-UY, CARI, CO (A.N.), CUA, CUARESMA, DEL MAR, DUJALI, FUENTEBELLA, LARA, LIMKAICHONG, LOYOLA, NAVA, SALIMBANGON, SINGSON (R.V.), TIANGCO, UMALI, VARGAS-ALFONSO, YAP (ERIC), YU (D.G.), ZAMORA (M.C.), ZUBIRI, ALMARIO, AMANTE, ANG, ATAYDE, BASCUG, BOSITA, BUSTOS, CHATTO, CHUNGALAO, CRUZ (A.), CRUZ (R.), DAGOOC, DIMAPORO (S.A.), DIONISIO, DY (F.M.C.), EUDELA, FORTES, FRESNEDI, GARCIA (D.), GARDIOLA, GO (M.), GOLEZ, HERNANDEZ, KHONGHUN, LAGON (D.), LAGON (S.), LAZATIN, MACEDA, MANGAOANG, MANQUIZ, MATIBAG, MERCADO, NOGRALES (M.I.), OUANO-DIZON, PANALIGAN, PLAZA, PLEYTO, RODRIGUEZ (E.), SALI, SANTOS, TAN (J.), TULFO (J.), UNABIA, VARGAS, VERGARA, VERZOSA, YAP (C.), BULUT-BEGTANG, GASATAYA, GOMEZ, MARAÑON, ROMULO, SALO, TEVES (A.), VILLA, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), YULO, ZAMORA (Y.M.), ACHARON, RIVERA, ROMUALDO, VILLARICA, OAMINAL AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 437

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING BY QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS, PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES, LAWYERS, AND HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH 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 the State to
2 make voting convenient for senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs),
3 lawyers, and human resources for health by giving them the option to vote earlier
4 than the date set for the elections.

5
6 **SEC. 2. Early Voting.** – In consideration of their respective physical and health
7 conditions, senior citizens and PWDs shall be allowed to vote early in national and
8 local elections. Similarly, in consideration of the necessity of providing professional
9 services and ensuring the health and safety of the populace during election day,
10 lawyers and human resources for health, respectively, shall be allowed to vote early
11 in national and local elections.

12
13 For the purposes of this Act, the term “human resources for health” shall refer to
14 those who are engaged in health and health-related work, and all persons employed
15 in all hospitals, sanitarium, health infirmaries, health centers, rural health units,
16 barangay health stations, clinics and other health-related establishments owned and
17 operated by the Government or its political subdivisions with original charters and
18 shall include medical, allied health professional, administrative and support
19 personnel employed regardless of their employment status who physically report to
20 the frontlines during the day of the election.

21
22 **SEC. 3. Registration.** – There shall be a nationwide registration for senior citizens,
23 PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health to qualify them to avail of this early
24 voting privilege. Those who are not registered under this Act shall vote on Election
25 Day.

26
27 **SEC. 4. Obligations of the Commission on Elections.** – To ensure the effective
28 implementation of this Act, the Commission on Elections shall:

29
30 (a) Keep a record of senior citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for
31 health who are registered voters;

1 (b) Design a registration system, in coordination with local government units, the
2 National Council on Disability Affairs, the Commission on Human Rights, the Office
3 of the Bar Confidant of the Supreme Court, the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, the
4 Department of Health, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government for
5 senior citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health in order to facilitate
6 their early voting;

7
8 (c) Ensure that polling places are safe and accessible to senior citizens and PWDs,
9 and properly fitted with the necessary communication, visual and physical aids, as
10 mandated under Republic Act No. 10366 entitled, “An Act Authorizing the
11 Commission on Elections to Establish Precincts Assigned to Accessible Polling
12 Places Exclusively for Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens”; and

13
14 (d) Mount an intensive information campaign on early voting for qualified senior
15 citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health.

16
17 **SEC. 5. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this
18 Act shall be charged against the available appropriations of the COMELEC.
19 Thereafter, such amount shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

20
21 **SEC. 6. Applicability of Other Laws.** – The provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 or
22 the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 7166, entitled, “An Act Providing for
23 Synchronized National and Local Elections and for Electoral Reforms, Authorizing
24 Appropriations Therefor, and for Other Purposes”, and other election laws not
25 inconsistent herewith shall be applied to facilitate early voting for qualified senior
26 citizens, PWDs, lawyers, and human resources for health.

27
28 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within ninety (90) days from its
29 effectivity, the Commission shall promulgate rules and regulations for the effective
30 implementation of this Act.

31
32 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
33 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected thereby shall
34 remain in force and effect.

35
36 **SEC 9. Repealing Clause.** – All other laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive
37 orders, issuances, presidential proclamations, rules and regulations or parts thereof,
38 which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provision of this Act, are hereby
39 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

40
41 **SEC. 10. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
42 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,