

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1635

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 9054 the law that expanded the geographic composition of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) under Republic Act 6734, specifically provided that the date of the first regular election for the regional governor, regional vice-governor and members of the regional legislative assembly in the expanded ARMM shall be held on the second Monday of September 2004. It also provided that the term of office of elected officials shall be for a period of three (3) years which shall begin at noon on the 30th day of September next following the day of the election and shall end at noon of the same date three (3) years thereafter.

The first regular election for elective officials in the expanded ARMM was held on November 26, 2001 pursuant to Republic Act No. 9140, but the term of office of elective officials was not provided and could only be presumed to begin and end at noon on the 30th day of September next following their election. The term of office of the officials in the first election held in the expanded ARMM commenced on December 4, 2001.

If the second election in the expanded ARMM is held on the second Monday of September 2004, the term of office of the ARMM officials elected during the first regular election under the expanded ARMM law will be shortened by more than two (2) months. On the other hand, should the second regular elections in the expanded ARMM will held on the month of November 2004 pursuant to republic Act No. 9140, there will be no end to perpetual congressional intervention in resetting the election dates and terms of office of elected officials in the expanded ARMM vis-a-vis the explicit provisions of Republic Act No. 9054 or the expanded ARMM organic law.

In view of the foregoing and the urgency to remedy the above-mentioned controversy and consequential problem in the autonomous region, it is imperative to fix with finality the second regular election for elective officials in the expanded ARMM to September 2005.

An expedient passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


Francis N. Pangilinan

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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Senate Bill No. 1635

Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

AN ACT

FIXING THE DATE OF REGULAR ELECTION FOR ELECTION FOR ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9054, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6734, ENTITLED 'AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO'", AS AMENDED

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

Section 1. In consonance with the explicit provision of Republic Act no. 9054, the second regular elections for elective officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao shall be held on the second Monday of September 2005. Succeeding elections shall be held every three (3) years thereafter.

Section 2. The term of office of the regional governor, regional vice-governor and members of the regional legislative assembly shall commence at noon of the 30th day of September three (3) years thereafter.

Section 3. All incumbent elective officials of the ARMM elected in the first regular election under Republic Act No. 9054 and Republic Act No. 9140 shall hold office until September 30, 2005.

Section 4. Separability Clause. - If any of the provisions of this Act is held unconstitutional, provisions not affected shall remain valid and binding.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees and all other issuance or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 6. This act shall take effect upon its approval by the President.

Approved.