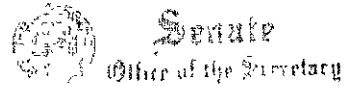


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



NOV 23 P2:15

SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 652

RECEIVED BY _____

Introduced by Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III

**RESOLUTION
CREATING A SELECT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE**

Whereas, Section 1, Article V of the Constitution provides that "Suffrage may be exercised by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law, who are at least eighteen years of age, and who shall have resided in the Philippines for at least one year and in the place wherein they propose to vote for at least six months immediately preceding the election. No literacy, property, or other substantive requirement shall be imposed on the exercise of suffrage";

Whereas, to ensure that the electorate will not be divested with their constitutional right to vote, the Omnibus Election Code mandates the Commission on Election to "Fix other reasonable periods for certain pre-election requirements in order that voters shall not be deprived of their right of suffrage and certain groups of rights granted them in this Code";

Whereas, there has been a growing concern over national and local elections and suffrage related matters and issues that should be taken independently to give full attention towards its reform and upliftment;

Whereas, with the recent development of automating the electoral process in the country, there is a serious need to assess the upshot of the initial implementation of the computerized election in May 2010 to find out its vulnerability as well as oversee and revisit the existing election rules and regulations affected by the poll automation;

Whereas, since the absentee voting law was passed eight (8) years ago, it appears that the objective in encouraging hundreds of thousands of Filipino Residents and Overseas Foreign Workers to participate the electoral process turns out to be ineffective which is evident of the very low turn-out of voters in the last election totaling to only 81,732 out of the total 589,830 overseas Filipinos registered to vote in the national elections;

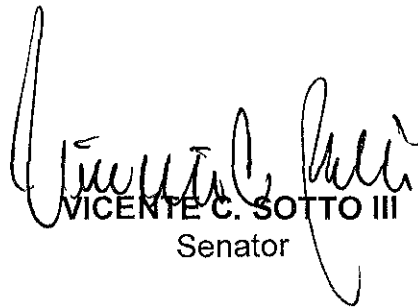
Whereas, more commonly recurring problem in the country's local and national elections is the issue of massive disenfranchisement of voters as a result of delayed opening of precincts, slow process of voting, missing names in the voters list and other similar election operations related problems, have resulted in the deprivation of voters in most precincts in the country to cast their right to vote;

Whereas, aspects to eradicate election fraud and similar controversies that prop up in the recent past national elections is crucial to the country's goal to regain political and economic stability;

Whereas, it is vital to create the Select Oversight Committee on Suffrage in order to take the lead role to oversee, conduct study and afford immediate legislative remedy on all issues affecting the country's national election: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to create a Select Oversight Committee on Suffrage.

Adopted,



VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Senator