

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

'04 JUL -1 A11:32

SENATE
S B No. 1264

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 7166 (the Synchronized Election Law of 1991) has, for its purpose, two laudable intentions: to minimize election-related violence and to safeguard the sanctity of the ballot by prohibiting the carrying of firearms outside one's residence during the election period.

Section 32 of the same law, however, is all-encompassing and has resulted in the unduly restrictive measure of prohibiting even the licensing of firearms during the election period. This goes beyond the legislative intent of the abovementioned law.

The Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws has drafted this bill to offer a reasonable remedy, by retaining the salient features of R.A. 7166 while amending section 32 to save the affected sectors from its oppressive features.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 32 OF R. A. NO. 7166 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE 1991
SYNCHRONIZED ELECTION LAW"

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

SECTION 1. Section 32 of R. A. 7166 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 32. - Who May Bear Firearms. - During the election period, no person shall bear, carry or transport firearms or other weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicles or public conveyances, even if licensed to [possess or] carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission. [The issuance of firearms licenses shall be suspended during the election period.] THE FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVE DIVISION (FED) OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL POLICE SHALL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO PROCESS AND APPROVE APPLICATION/S FOR LICENSE TO POSSESS FIREARM/S TO QUALIFIED APPLICANT/S, ISSUE THE CORRESPONDING LICENSE/S AND PERMIT/S TO TRANSPORT THE FIREARM/S SUBJECT THEREOF FROM ITS STORAGE FACILITIES TO THE PLACE SPECIFIED IN THE APPROVED LICENSE, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSPORT OF IMPORTED FIREARMS FROM THE WAREHOUSE OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS TO ITS STORAGE FACILITIES."

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval

APPROVED