

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

SENATE 1706  
Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Introduced by Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Section 13 of RA 6646, otherwise known as the Electoral Reforms Law of 1987, stipulates that all of the members of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEI) shall be public school teachers. In case there are not enough public school teachers, teachers in private schools, employees in the civil service, or other citizens of known probity and competence, who are registered voters of the city or municipality, may be appointed for election duty.

The attached bill seeks to amend the compulsory teachers' election duties to give public school teachers a choice as to whether or not they would want to be members of the BEI. Primarily, the amendment is hinged on the basic assumption that just like any other citizen, public school teachers should be given the option to refuse or accept the task of overseeing the election procedure in precincts. By doing so, teachers are protected, as well as the education service delivery, from undue pressure and interventions from both the winning and losing candidates, after the election. The role of the teachers is principally to teach students in school. Therefore, it is unjust to subject them to the worry, tension, anxiety, notwithstanding the harassment from losing candidates, which accompany Philippine elections.

The amendment therefore proposes that public school teachers will no longer be compelled to be members of the BEI. And since the BEI plays a crucial role in the election, it should thus be composed of members who voluntarily and willingly want to serve and fulfill election duties and responsibilities. On the other hand, aside from giving the public school teachers a choice, the proposed amendment will in effect encourage participation and give a chance for non-public school teachers and any private citizen to serve the government by taking on the responsibility of ensuring credible and honest election proceedings.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly being sought.

  
FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

SENATE 1786  
Senate Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by Senator Pangilinan

AN ACT  
AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6646, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS "THE ELECTORAL REFORMS LAW OF 1987," TO REMOVE  
THE MANDATE FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO SERVE AS  
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ELECTION INSPECTORS AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 6646 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 13. Board of Election Inspectors – The Board of Election Inspectors to be constituted by the Commission under Section 164 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881 shall be composed of a chairman and two (2) members, one of whom shall be designated as poll clerk, all of whom shall be DULY AUTHORIZED VOLUNTEER CITIZENS OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTION DUTY, PREFERABLY COMING FROM THE FOLLOWING:

1. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
  - a. PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS
  - b. OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
2. PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS
3. YOUTH AND PROFESSIONAL SECTOR
4. LABOR SECTOR
5. ANY OTHER CITIZEN OF KNOWN PROBITY AND COMPETENCE, AND WHO ARE REGISTERED VOTERS OF THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY WHERE THEY WISH TO SERVE ON ELECTION DAY.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE COMMISSION SHALL INSTITUTE AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM FOR ACCREDITATION OF VOLUNTEERS, SUCH PROGRAM OF ACCREDITATION SHALL GIVE PREFERENCE IN THE ORDER PROVIDED ABOVE. THE APPOINTMENT OF SUCH ACCREDITED VOLUNTEERS, WHO SHALL BE GIVEN PER DIEMS AND ALLOWANCES AS PROVIDED BY EXISTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS, SHALL STATE THE PRECINCT TO WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED AND THE DATE OF THE APPOINTMENT.

Section 2. The Commission on Election shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the implementation of Section 13, Republic Act No. 6646, as

amended by this Act. The failure of the Commission to issue the rules prescribed shall not in any manner affect the self-executory nature of this Act.

Section 3. The provision of the Omnibus Election Code (BP Blg. 881), Republic Act No. 6646, Republic Act No. 7166, Republic Act 8189, regulations, or other issuances or any part thereof inconsistent with the provision of the Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*