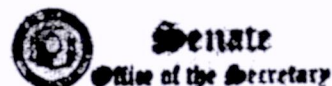



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



20 FEB -3 P5:12

SENATE
S. No. 1316

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

AN ACT
REORGANIZING THE OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS AND
RECLASSIFYING THE PLANTILLA POSITIONS IN THE AGENCY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article IX (C) of the 1987 Constitution provides for the creation of the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) and mandates it to enforce and administer all laws and regulations concerning the conduct of regular and special elections.

The officers and employees of this Constitutional body give life to its mandate and fulfil its sacred and gargantuan responsibility to the country. They give utmost dedication, commitment and sacrifice – some even losing their lives – to their job, fully aware of how important their roles are to the democracy that our country is enjoying now. However, they have also been long burdened by meager salary which lags far behind their counterparts in other government agencies.

This proposed measure seeks to reorganize the offices in COMELEC, and to reclassify and upgrade the plantilla positions in the main and field offices of the agency. The reorganization will allow COMELEC to perform its function more effectively and responsively. In similar light, the reclassification will entitle the officials and employees to enjoy the salary and related benefits that they long deserve. Apart from being an effective deterrent against graft and corruption, it will also renew the vitality and morale of the personnel.

Based on the 2020 Staffing Summary, there are 5,694 permanent positions in COMELEC, 4,880 of which of which are filled. The sole and exclusive negotiating agent of the COMELEC rank and file employees nationwide, the COMELEC Employees' Union (COMELEC-EU), is supportive of this measure.

A similar measure was filed by Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III.

In light of the aforementioned, the immediate passage of this bill is highly recommended.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*COMELEC Offices*
2 *Reorganization Act of 2020*".

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – In accordance with the equal protection clause
4 of the Constitution, it is the State’s responsibility to provide adequate and appropriate
5 remuneration to employees with the ultimate goal of achieving equal pay for work of
6 equal value in government service

7 Sec. 3. *Field Offices.* – The Commission shall have the following field offices:

8 (1) Regional Election Office, headed by the Regional Election Director and
9 assisted by the Assistant Regional Election Director, Regional Election
10 Attorney with the rank of Attorney V, Human Resource Management
11 Officer, Budget Officer, Finance Officer, Assistant Election Specialist,
12 Stenographic Reporter III, Process Server, Watchman Officer,
13 Administrative Aide, ORED Driver and any such other subordinate
14 officers or employees necessary in the exigency of service for the said
15 office.

16 (2) Provincial Election Office, headed by the Provincial Election Director
17 similar to the rank of Director II regardless of the number of registered
18 voters, Computer Maintenance Technologist/Specialist (CMT/CMS) with

1 SG-24, Assistant Election Specialist, Administrative Aide, OPES driver
2 and any such subordinate officers or employees necessary in the
3 exigency of service for the said office.

4 (3) The National Capital Region shall be divided into five (5) administrative
5 districts, such as North, South, East, Central and Manila District, or such
6 number of administrative districts as may be determined by the
7 Commission, which shall be headed and administratively supervised by
8 a District Election Director with the rank of Director II, Computer
9 Maintenance Technologist/Specialist (CMT/CMS) with SG-24,
10 Administrative Assistant V, Administrative Aide, Driver and any such
11 subordinate officers or employees necessary in the exigency of service
12 for the said office.

13 (4) City/Municipal Office, headed by City/Municipal Election Specialist with
14 the rank of Director I regardless of their place of assignment.

15 (5) There shall be a minimum of two (2) Assistant Elections Specialists (AES)
16 with SG-21 in every city or municipality: *Provided*, That for every
17 additional 20,000 voters from 50,000 voters, additional AES shall be
18 automatically appointed.

19 The Commission may delegate its powers and functions or order the
20 implementation or enforcement of its orders, rulings, or decision, through the heads
21 of its field offices.

22 Sec. 4. *Reclassification and Upgrading of Plantilla Positions in the COMELEC*
23 *Main and Field Offices.* – All the remaining rank and file plantilla positions in the
24 COMELEC main and field offices shall be reclassified and upgraded accordingly by the
25 Commission on Elections.

26 Sec. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from
27 the approval of this Act, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the
28 Commission on Elections shall adopt and issue the rules and regulations for the
29 effective implementation of this Act.

30 Sec. 6. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
31 of this Act shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriations under the
32 budget of the COMELEC. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the

1 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General
2 Appropriations Act.

3 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
4 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision or part not otherwise
5 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

6 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
7 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or
8 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
9 accordingly.

10 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12

13 *Approved,*