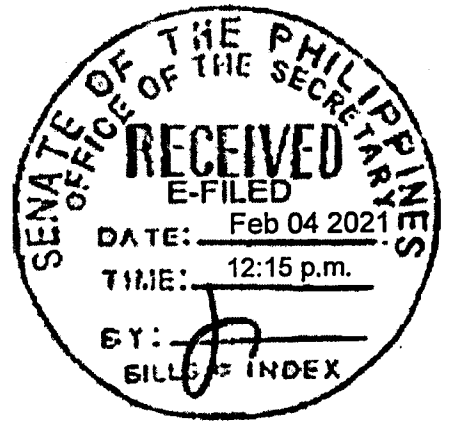


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 639

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS AND PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SLOW PROGRESS OF VOTERS REGISTRATION AND THE PREPAREDNESS OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) TO CONDUCT THE 2022 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS (NLE) DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, as the May 9, 2022 National and Local Elections (NLE) draws closer and closer, the Philippines continues to suffer from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8189 or "The Voter's Registration Act of 1996" established a system of continuing voters registration wherein persons may file their applications for voters registration before the Commission on Elections (COMELEC);

WHEREAS, as of February 3, 2021, the COMELEC said that it only received about 1.3 million voter applications or only 32.5% of its target of four million new voters before the September 30, 2021 deadline¹;

WHEREAS, the COMELEC deactivated around seven million voters due to non-participation in two consecutive elections or other reasons. Out of the seven million voters, only around 700,000 individuals have reactivated their records at the COMELEC²;

WHEREAS, in January 2021, COMELEC spokesperson James Jimenez said that registration is open only for four days a week and mentioned that one of the root causes of the slow registration process is that they are preventing people from congregating in their offices³;

WHEREAS, COMELEC spokesperson James Jimenez also said that the COMELEC "is eyeing a ban on face-to-face campaigning for the May 2022 elections considering the persisting threat of the COVID-19 pandemic"⁴;

¹ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1391429/around-7-million-voter-accounts-deactivated-comelec>

² *Id.*

³ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1385192/comelec-voter-registration-still-going-very-slowly-despite-topping-1-million>

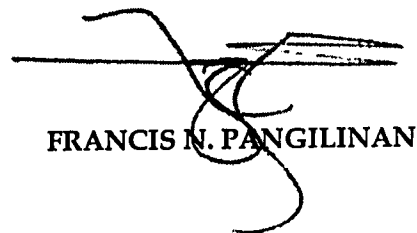
⁴ <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1390967/comelec-eyes-ban-on-face-to-face-campaign-for-2022-elections>

WHEREAS, because the COVID-19 pandemic will stretch beyond the 2022 NLE, the COMELEC must establish COVID-19 health protocols during all stages of the election process, including registration, filing of the certificates of candidacy, campaign, and the election itself;

WHEREAS, the COMELEC should be able to prevent the disenfranchisement of the voters while ensuring the safety and health of all stakeholders concerned;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the Senate Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the slow progress of voters registration and the preparedness of COMELEC to conduct the 2022 National and Local Elections (NLE) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,



FRANCIS N. PANGILINAN