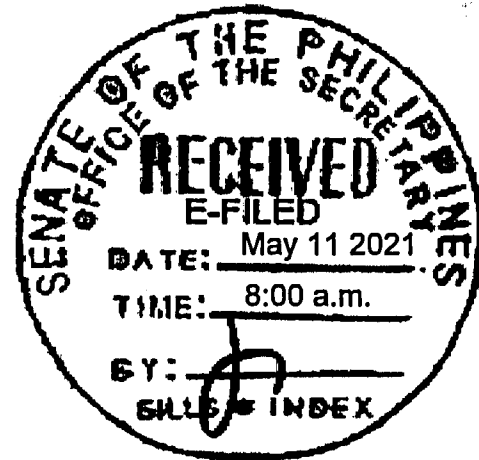


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



SENATE

P.S. Resolution No. 716

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**RESOLUTION**  
**DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE**  
**TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,**  
**INTO THE NECESSARY LAWS TO BE ENACTED IN ORDER FOR THE**  
**COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO CONDUCT ORDERLY ELECTIONS**  
**FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL, LOCAL, AND BARMM ELECTIONS**  
**WITH PROPER HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS AGAINST COVID-19**

**WHEREAS**, the 1987 Constitution provides that the national and local elections shall be held every three years on the second Monday of May. Thus, the next scheduled national and local elections shall be held on the second Monday of May 2022;

**WHEREAS**, the said next elections include the positions of President and Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines where voters' turn-out is expected to be much higher than in any other elections;

**WHEREAS**, the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic on 11 March 2020 and as of 05 May 2021, the total COVID-19 cases in the Philippines is 1,073,555 with 17,800 deaths;

**WHEREAS**, as of 14 April 2021, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) has recorded postponements in 69 countries and eight territories, with a total of 116 election events postponed;

**WHEREAS**, several countries like South Korea, Taiwan, Belarus, Singapore, Iceland, and Poland have already conducted elections during the pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, all Filipinos shall abide by the Constitution and proceed with the elections in 2022. However, proper health and safety protocols against COVID-19

should be put in place in order for the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) conduct orderly elections;

**WHEREAS**, proposed actions for COMELEC to adopt include disallowing face-to-face campaign and debates, wearing of face masks and face shields, social distancing, limiting the number of voters in a precinct to prevent overcrowding such as providing an appointed schedule of voting, installing special polling stations for voters with temperature higher than 37.5 degrees Celsius or those displaying respiratory problems, extension of voting hours, designing the polling places to have airflow and ventilation, disinfecting booths, marking pens, and other election equipment and paraphernalia, voting in another jurisdiction in case of localized or national lockdowns, clearing the voting status of repatriated overseas voters, voting of COVID-19 patients in special polling stations installed in hospitals or allowing them to vote by mail, and increasing the number of polling places and centers;

**WHEREAS**, COMELEC should learn from India's experience wherein the election commission was blamed for the surge in COVID-19 cases because the commission allowed election campaign rallies with a Madras high court stating that the commission "is singularly responsible for the second wave of COVID-19";

**WHEREAS**, certain existing election laws or lack of specific provisions in our election laws may pose problems in the implementation of health and safety protocols against the spread of COVID-19 during election-related activities that COMELEC may plan to execute;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, directing the appropriate Senate Committee to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, into the necessary laws to be enacted in order for the Commission on Elections to conduct orderly elections for the 2022 National, Local, and BARMM Elections with Proper Health and Safety Protocols against Covid-19.

*Adopted,*

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**