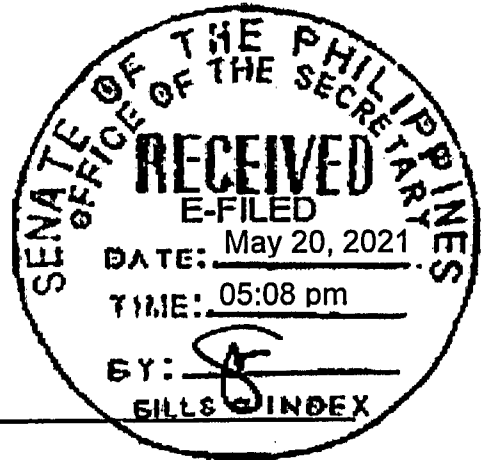


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



SENATE

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 260

Submitted jointly by the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation;  
Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance on May 20, 2021.

Re: Senate Bill No. 2216 Prepared by the Committees

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1866, taking into  
consideration Senate Bill Nos. 1104 and 1870, and House Bill No. 6470

Sponsor: Senator Imee R. Marcos

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**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance, to which were referred **Senate Bill  
No. 1866**, introduced by Sen. Sonny Angara, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY IN THE VOTING OF SENIOR  
CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 2(J) AND 9, AND CREATING  
NEW SECTIONS 9-A AND 9-B UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
10366, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO ESTABLISH PRECINCTS  
ASSIGNED TO ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES EXCLUSIVELY  
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS"**

taking into consideration **Senate Bill No. 1104**, introduced by Sen. Imee R. Marcos, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR  
QUALIFIED SENIOR CITIZENS AND  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
IN ALL ELECTIONS"**

**Senate Bill No. 1870**, introduced by Sen. Imee R. Marcos, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF POSTAL VOTING BY SENIOR  
CITIZENS, PREGNANT WOMEN, PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES, AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES"**

and

**House Bill No. 6470**, introduced by Representatives Quimbo, Ferrer (J.M.), Romualdez (F.M.), and Tambunting, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10366, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS "AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMISSION ON  
ELECTIONS TO DESIGNATE PRECINCTS ASSIGNED  
TO ACCESSIBLE POLLING PLACES EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached **Senate Bill No. 2216** prepared by the Committees, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY IN THE VOTING OF SENIOR CITIZENS,  
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, PREGNANT WOMEN, AND INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10366,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

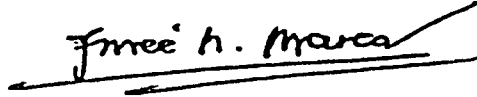
be approved in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1866, taking into consideration Senate Bill Nos. 1104 and 1870, and House Bill No. 6470, with Senators Angara, Marcos, and De Lima as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

*Chairpersons*



**SEN. SONNY ANGARA**  
*Committee on Finance*



**SEN. IMEE R. MARCOS**  
*Committee on Electoral Reforms and  
People's Participation*  
*Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Social  
Justice, Welfare and Rural Development*  
*Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Finance*



**SEN. LEILA M. DE LIMA**  
*Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development*  
*Member, Committee on Finance*

*Vice-Chairpersons*



**SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO**  
*Committee on Finance*  
*Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development*

**SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON**  
*Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's  
Participation*  
*Committee on Finance*



**SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA**  
*Committee on Finance*  
*Member, Committee on Social Justice,  
Welfare and Rural Development*



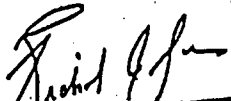
**SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
*Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and  
Rural Development*  
*Member, Committee on Electoral Reforms and  
People's Participation*  
*Member, Committee on Finance*




**SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**  
*Committee on Finance*

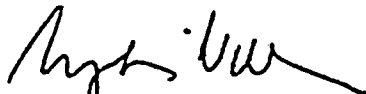


**SEN. CHRISTOPHER BONG GO**  
*Committee on Finance*  
*Member, Committee on Electoral Reforms  
and People's Participation*


  
**SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON**  
*Committee on Finance*

  
**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**  
*Committee on Finance*  
*Member, Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation*

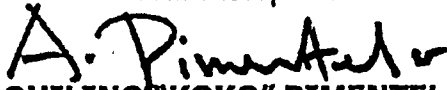
  
**SEN. GRACE POE**  
*Committee on Finance*


  
**SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**  
*Committee on Finance*  
*Member, Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation*

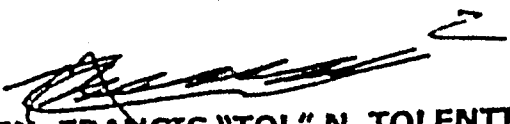
  
**SEN. MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Committee on Finance*

  
**SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**  
*Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation*  
*Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development*  
*Committee on Finance*

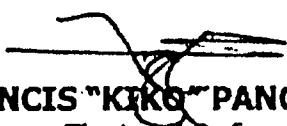
  
**SEN. EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO**  
*Committee on Finance*

*"Will interpellate"*  
  
**SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III**  
*Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation*  
*Committee on Finance*

  
*"will interpellate"*  
**SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.**  
*Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation*  
*Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development*  
*Committee on Finance*



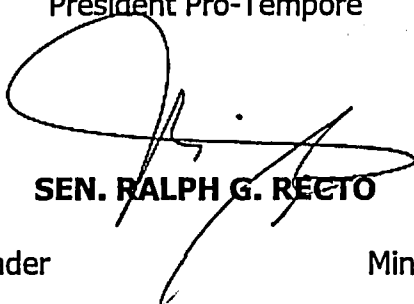
**SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**  
*Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation*  
*Committee on Finance*



**SEN. FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN**  
*Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation*  
*Committee on Finance*

*Ex Officio Members*

President Pro-Tempore



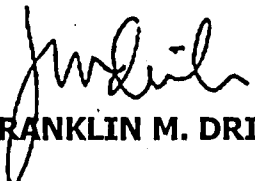
**SEN. RALPH G. RECTO**

Majority Leader

Minority Leader



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**



**SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON**

**HON. VICENTE C. SOTTO III**  
Senate President

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



SENATE

S.B. No. 2216

(In substitution of S.B. No. 1866, taking into consideration  
S.B. Nos. 1104 and 1870, and H.B. No. 6470)

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Prepared by the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation;  
Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance  
with Senators Angara, Marcos, and De Lima as authors thereof

---

**AN ACT**  
**ENHANCING ACCESSIBILITY IN THE VOTING OF SENIOR CITIZENS,**  
**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, PREGNANT WOMEN, AND INDIGENOUS**  
**PEOPLES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10366,**  
**PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1           SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall ensure that senior citizens,  
2 persons with disabilities (PWDs), pregnant women, and indigenous peoples (IPs) are  
3 able to exercise their right to political participation without restrictions. The State shall  
4 devise systems and procedures that will enhance accessibility in their voting process.

5           SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the term:

6           (a) “Commission” refers to the Commission on Elections.

7           (b) “Senior citizens” refer to qualified voters who are sixty (60) years or  
8 older.

1           (c)    "Persons with disabilities" or "PWDs" refer to qualified voters who have  
2 long term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which, in interaction  
3 with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an  
4 equal basis with others.

5           (d)    "Pregnant women" refer to qualified voters who are pregnant at the time  
6 of the period for early voting and during election day regardless of the number of  
7 trimester.

8           (e)    "Indigenous peoples" refer to qualified voters who belong to a group of  
9 people or homogenous societies identified by self-ascription and ascription by others,  
10 who have continuously lived as organized community on communally bounded and  
11 defined territory, and who have, under claims of ownership since time immemorial,  
12 occupied, possessed and utilized such territories, sharing common bonds of language,  
13 customs, traditions and other distinctive cultural traits, or who have, through  
14 resistance to political, social and cultural inroads of colonization, non-indigenous  
15 religions and cultures, became historically differentiated from the majority of Filipinos.  
16 IPs shall likewise include peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their  
17 descent from the populations which inhabited the country, at the time of conquest or  
18 colonization, or at the time of inroads of non-indigenous religions and cultures, or the  
19 establishment of present state boundaries, who retain some or all of their own social,  
20 economic, cultural and political institutions, but who may have been displaced from  
21 their traditional domains or who may have resettled outside their ancestral domains.

22           SEC. 3. *Early Voting.* – For national and local elections, there shall be early  
23 voting where senior citizens, PWDs, pregnant women, and IPs qualified to vote early  
24 may choose to cast their ballot for a period of not less than two (2) days within thirty  
25 (30) calendar days before election day at accessible establishments designated by the  
26 Commission.



1 For this purpose, accessible establishments shall be located at the ground floor,  
2 preferably near the entrance of a building, shall be readily accessible to public  
3 transportation, and shall be free of any physical barriers and provided with necessary  
4 infrastructure and disability support services, including assistive devices, transport  
5 wheelchairs, ramps, railings, sidewalk, adequate lighting, ventilation, and other  
6 features for the senior citizens, PWDs, and pregnant women.

7 Aside from structural accessibility, the Commission shall provide live assistance  
8 for PWDs such as sign language interpreters.

9 There shall be a nationwide registration of senior citizens, PWDs, pregnant  
10 women, and IPs who may wish to avail of their early voting privileges to qualify them  
11 for early voting. Only those who are not registered under the early voting system shall  
12 vote on election day.

13 **SEC. 4. *Option for Postal Early Voting.*** – Senior citizens, PWDs, pregnant  
14 women, and IPs who registered for early voting shall have the option to cast their  
15 ballot via post in designated precincts: *Provided,* That voters who wish to vote via post  
16 must first be registered to do so with the Commission.

17 The Commission shall provide rules, necessary safeguards, and confirmation  
18 procedures to properly implement this provision.

19 **SEC. 5. *Emergency Accessible Polling Places (EAPP).*** – During election day, the  
20 Commission shall designate a room or a makeshift or temporary polling place  
21 established at the ground of a voting center or outside of it but in close proximity  
22 thereto, where senior citizens, PWDs, and pregnant women voters may vote on  
23 election day.

24 The Commission shall ensure that the voting procedure in the EAPP, including  
25 the facilities, materials, and a voting machine in the event of automated elections, are  
26 adequate, appropriate, accessible, and easy to understand and use, and that

1 reasonable accommodation shall be granted to PWDs, senior citizens, and pregnant  
2 women in order that they may fully exercise their right of suffrage. The Commission  
3 shall provide live assistance for PWDs such as sign language interpreters.

4 SEC. 6. Section 2(j) of Republic Act No. 10366 is hereby amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 "SEC. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – xxx

7 (a) xxx.

8 xxx.

9 (j) *Accessible polling place* refers to the venue where the  
10 Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) conducts election-related  
11 proceedings and where the voters cast their votes. The accessible  
12 polling place shall be located at the ground floor, preferably near the  
13 entrance of the building, **SHALL BE READILY ACCESSIBLE TO**  
14 **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**, and [is] **SHALL BE** free of any  
15 physical barriers and provided with necessary **INFRASTRUCTURE**  
16 **AND** services, including assistive devices, **TRANSPORT**  
17 **WHEELCHAIRS, RAMPS, RAILINGS, SIDEWALKS, ADEQUATE**  
18 **LIGHTING, VENTILATION, AND OTHER FEATURES FOR**  
19 **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIOR CITIZENS."**

20 SEC. 7. Section 9 of Republic Act No. 10366 is hereby amended to read as  
21 follows:

22 "SEC. 9. [~~Creation of~~] *Precincts for Persons with Disabilities and*  
23 *Senior Citizens.* – The Commission is hereby authorized to [establish]  
24 **DESIGNATE** precincts [~~of a nonterritorial nature,~~] **IN ACCESSIBLE**  
25 **POLLING PLACES FOR THE** exclusive[ely for] **USE OF** persons with

1 disabilities and senior citizens [~~who in their registration records~~  
2 ~~manifest their intent to avail of their right to a separate precinct under~~  
3 ~~this section. Pursuant hereto, the Commission shall establish at least~~  
4 ~~one (1) such precinct, assigned to accessible polling places, for every~~  
5 ~~voting center.], **SUCH AS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, TOWN HALLS**  
6 **OR PLAZAS, CIVIC CENTERS, COMMUNITY CENTERS, OR**  
7 **OTHER SIMILARLY DESIGNATED SPECIAL VENUES OR AREAS,**  
8 **WITH PREFERENCE FOR VENUES DESIGNED WITH SPECIAL**  
9 **FEATURES TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY AND COMFORT.** Such  
10 precincts shall be provided with assistive devices **PURSUANT TO THE**  
11 **PROVISIONS OF SECTION 2(J) OF THIS ACT** as well as the  
12 services of experts in assisting persons with disabilities, **SUCH AS**  
13 **SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS.**~~

14 *SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within ninety (90) days from  
15 approval of this Act, the Commission shall, in consultation with other relevant  
16 government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society  
17 organizations, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement this Act.

18 *SEC. 9. Appropriations.* – The initial appropriation to carry out the provisions of  
19 this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Commission.  
20 Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall  
21 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

22 *SEC. 10. Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act or part hereof  
23 be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not affected thereby shall  
24 remain valid and effective.

25 *SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or  
26 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby  
27 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

1           SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
2 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*