


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**Introduced by Senator Francis "Tol" N. Tolentino**

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**RESOLUTION**

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE A LONGER PERIOD FOR THE FILING OF CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY FOR THE 2022 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS IN VIEW OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), through COMELEC Resolution No. 10695, dated 10 February 2021, has set the one-week filing of Certificates of Candidacy (COC) for all elective positions for the 9 May 2022 National and Local Elections from October 1 to 8 this year;<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, on 22 July 2021, the Philippines logged a total of 1,524,449 COVID-19 cases, with almost 50,000 active cases;<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the spread of an aggressive Delta variant is causing surges in several nations.<sup>3</sup> The Department of Health said that the country is on heightened alert as Delta cases have been reported in the country. The Philippines has reported 35 cases of people who were positive for the Delta variant, including 3 deaths;<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>[https://comelec.gov.ph/php-tpls-attachments/2022NLE/Resolutions/com\\_res\\_10695.pdf](https://comelec.gov.ph/php-tpls-attachments/2022NLE/Resolutions/com_res_10695.pdf);  
<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1130549>  
<sup>2</sup> <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/philippines/>  
<sup>3</sup><https://www.bworldonline.com/south-korea-reports-record-daily-infections-as-delta-variant-drives-surge/>;  
<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/07/08/1013794996/why-the-delta-variant-is-so-contagious-a-new-study-sheds-light>;  
<https://apnews.com/article/europe-coronavirus-vaccine-health-coronavirus-pandemic-lifestyle-f7a991223769d8c98d3fc1d03968f560>  
<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/covid-19-delta-variant-death-toll-philippines-july-19-2021>

**WHEREAS**, the Philippines logged 6,560 COVID-19 infections on 21 July 2021, the highest since 26 June 2021;<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to adapt to the health emergency brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the COMELEC issued a statement that it would study the possibility of allowing the online filing of COC for the 2022 elections to avoid overcrowding amid the ongoing pandemic;<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, further taking into consideration the statement of COMELEC Spokesman James Jimenez, existing election laws do not allow online filing of COC. Instead, the COMELEC will come up with guidelines to ensure that the filing of COCs will strictly follow the health protocols of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases;<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, recognizing the statement of COMELEC Commissioner Marlon Casquejo that a law should be passed to supersede the Omnibus Election Code, which required the physical filing of certificates by candidates, and said that there is not enough time to pass a law;<sup>8</sup>

**WHEREAS**, in order to ensure the safety of the candidates, their supporters, COMELEC officials and employees, and the general public, there is a need to provide for a longer period for the filing of COC so that overcrowding in COMELEC offices will be prevented.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved, to express the sense of the Senate urging the Commission on Elections to provide a longer period for the filing of Certificates of Candidacy for the 2022 national and local elections in view of health and safety concerns brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted,



**FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

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<sup>5</sup> <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/07/21/21/philippines-covid19-cases-update-july212021>

<sup>6</sup> <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1447720/comelec-to-study-online-filings-for-2022>; <https://news.abs-cbn.com/news/06/24/21/comelec-eyes-online-filing-of-candidacy-for-2022-polls-spokesman-says>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.philstar.com/nation/2021/06/26/2108133/comelec-mulls-virtual-filing-coc-october>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.rappler.com/nation/elections/comelec-commissioner-says-online-filing-candidacy-2022-polls-not-possible>