CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES NINETEENTH CONGRESS *First Regular Session*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7352

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMUALDEZ (F.M.), DALIPE, RODRIGUEZ (R.), CO (E.), QUIMBO, VILLAFUERTE (L.R.), ABANTE, GOMEZ, SALO, CORVERA, PLEYTO, PALMA, CO-PILAR, NOGRALES (M.I.), TEVES (J.), LACSON-NOEL, DELOS SANTOS, ACIDRE, PADUANO, TANJUATCO, BONGALON, VELASCO, BARONDA, SUAREZ, SINGSON-MEEHAN, ROBES, NOLASCO, SUAN, PUMAREN, GONZALEZ, FORTES, ZAMORA (Y.M.), GONZALES (A.), KHONGHUN, CUA, BAUTISTA, YAMSUAN, HORIBATA, ROMUALDO, MARAÑON, ZAMORA (M.C.), BARBERS, MADRONA, VILLAR, YU (D.G.), ADIONG, ARBISON, DEFENSOR, EMANO, MALAPITAN, TAN (S.), MARCOS, MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, ROMUALDEZ (Y.M.), AQUINO, GARCIA (A.), PUNO, ENVERGA, DUAVIT, TIANGCO, MENDOZA, TOLENTINO, GASATAYA, UNGAB, CAMPOS, GARCIA (J.A.), LAGON (S.), LAGON (D.), ALBANO, LAZATIN, ALVAREZ (M.), SUANSING (H.), MAGSINO, ALBA, MARQUEZ, PANCHO, ESTRELLA, GARCIA (D.), TAN (J.), BERNOS, TALLADO, YU (J.V.), CABREDO, LARA, AGARAO, DY (F.M.C.), BARBA, GO (M.), PASCUAL, REGENCIA, VILLARICA, PIMENTEL, BENITEZ, CAJAYON-UY, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, MATIBAG, SALCEDA, CUARESMA, BAUTISTA-LIM, MORDEN, ESPINA, BALINDONG, NAVA, LABADLABAD, GONZAGA, GARDIOLA, PADIERNOS, SUANSING (M.A.), Arrogancia, Bascug, Guintu, Amante, Domingo, Cruz (A.), Cagas, Garcia (V.), Villa, MATUGAS, DEL MAR, EUDELA, LIMKAICHONG, FRESNEDI, SINGSON (R.), VILLAFUERTE (M.L.), GALEOS, VALERIANO, ECLEO, COLLANTES, BULUT-BEGTANG, ROQUE, TAN-TAMBUT, REVILLA (R.J.), GOLEZ, ASISTIO, KHO (O.), KHO (R.), MERCADO, MACEDA, SALIMBANGON, ORTEGA, VELOSO-TUAZON, OLIVAREZ, ALMARIO, TULFO (J.), FLORES, MOMO, PANALIGAN, DE VENECIA, TIENG, NISAY, MANGAOANG, CO (A.N.), LOYOLA, UNABIA, VIOLAGO, CARDEMA, VARGAS, ROMAN, SAKALURAN, DIMAPORO (S.A.), MERCADO-REVILLA, DAGOOC, REVILLA (B.), SANTOS, BUSTOS, ZUBIRI, LIBANAN, ABALOS, RIVERA, TUPAS, ORDANES, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, DIONISIO, FRASCO, CARI, ARENAS, FUENTEBELLA, SOLON, CHATTO, BARZAGA, DY (F.), LUISTRO, MASTURA, FERNANDEZ, GARCIA (M.A.), CALDERON, ANGARA, RODRIGUEZ (E.), TULFO (R.W.), OAMINAL, CHUA, SACDALAN, DUJALI, MANIQUIZ, ACOP, GUTIERREZ, YULO, Ferrer (A.), Lumayag, Ongchuan, Herrera, Yap (C.), Ouano-Dizon, Plaza, Miguel, SAULOG, GO (E.C.), MARIÑO, BOLILIA, ZAMORA (A.M.), BUHAIN, CRUZ (R.), CAOAGDAN, GORRICETA, ALMONTE, OLASO, CELESTE, HARESCO, TAN (R.M.), TUTOR, JAVIER, GULLAS, DALOG, TAN (S.J.), NOGRALES (J.F.F.), LACSON, DY (I.P.), HERNANDEZ, REMULLA, ADVINCULA, Abunda, Briones, Sali, Bosita, Sagarbarria, Acharon, Chungalao, Valmayor, LEGARDA, GARCIA (P.J.), ANG, VARGAS-ALFONSO, VILLARAZA-SUAREZ, AUMENTADO, RILLO, CASTRO (J.), TANCHAY, RAMA, TEODORO, PANOTES, GARIN, KHO (W.), CALIXTO, ALVAREZ (J.), DIMAPORO (M.K.), HAGEDORN, MARTINEZ, AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY, ESCUDERO, DE JESUS, CHAN, YAP (C.T.), FERRER (J.M.), ROMULO, PEÑA, GUICO, ALONTE, DAYANGHIRANG, GATO, YAP (ERIC), MARCOLETA, ALVAREZ (P.), TARRIELA, COJUANGCO (M.), ESPARES, REYES, AMATONG, SALVAME, COLADA, YAP (EDVIC), BIRON, TAN (K.M.), VERZOSA, TY, SILVERIO, TAMBUNTING, ATAYDE, PAGLAS, LEE, COJUANGCO (J.), TAMAYO, VERGARA, RECTO. SINGSON (R.V.), FARIÑAS, GONZALES (N.), NOEL, DAZA, ROMERO, BONDOC AND BILLONES, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 350

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING

RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES NO. 6 OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO, OR REVISION OF, THE 1987 CONSTITUTION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Constitutional
 Convention Act".

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SEC. 2. *Constitutional Convention; Composition.* – A Constitutional Convention,
hereinafter referred to as the Convention, is hereby constituted to propose amendments to, or
revision of, the 1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines. The Convention shall be
composed of elected and appointed delegates, one from each of the existing legislative districts,
who shall be chosen in an election to be held on October 30, 2023.

The Convention shall have sectoral representatives, which constitutes twenty per 8 centum of the total number of delegates, to be jointly appointed by the President of the 9 Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The delegates shall include at least 10 three (3) retired members of the judiciary, three (3) representatives from the academe, three (3) 11 from the legal profession, two (2) economists, two (2) from the medical profession, two (2) 12 from science and technology profession, two (2) representatives from the business sector, 13 two (2) from the labor sector, two (2) representatives from the urban poor, two (2) from the 14 farmers and fisherfolk, two (2) from indigenous cultural communities, two (2) from the 15 women sector, two (2) from the youth sector, two (2) from the veterans, two (2) from the 16 cooperatives sector, two (2) from the senior citizens and persons with disabilities and 17 representatives from such other sectors as the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House 18 of Representatives may determine as necessary: *Provided*, That all the additional sectoral 19 delegates shall come from the basic sectors as defined and provided for under Republic Act 20 No. 8425, otherwise known as the "Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act." 21

The delegates to the Convention must be of recognized probity, independence, nationalism and patriotism. In addition, delegates must be individuals with recognized knowledge and competence in the Constitution, and a deep understanding of the State and the principles which underlie its existence, organization, and activities, as well as of government and governance.

6 SEC. 3. *Qualifications.* – Elected and sectoral delegates shall be natural-born 7 citizens of the Philippines and at least twenty-five (25) years of age on the day of the election 8 or appointment.

9 Further, an elected delegate, who shall be at least a college degree holder, must be a
10 registered voter in the district in which the delegate shall be elected and a resident thereof for
11 a period of not less than one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the election.

Those who are convicted by final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude shallbe prohibited from being elected or appointed as delegate to the Convention.

SEC. 4. *Election and Appointment of Delegates.* – The election and appointment of
delegates to the Convention shall be held on the last Monday of October 2023 simultaneously
with the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections. The Commission on Elections
(COMELEC) shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the conduct
of such election.

For appointive delegates, their appointment shall be made within fifteen (15) days priorto the commencement of the Convention.

SEC. 5. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following provisions shall be considered prohibited
 acts, in addition to what has been provided for in the Omnibus Election Code of the
 Philippines and other pertinent election laws:

(1) Officers and members of all political parties, or a coalition or alliance of
 such, are prohibited from nominating, fielding, endorsing, supporting directly
 or indirectly, whether material or otherwise, and campaign for or against any

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1 candidate. No candidate shall represent or allow himself or herself to be 2 represented as being a candidate of any political party or any political 3 coalition or group in which a political party is a member or convenor thereof. 4 (2) Any person holding a public office or position, whether elective or 5 appointive, including members of the armed forces and officers and 6 employees of corporations or enterprises owned and/or controlled by the 7 government, shall be considered resigned upon the filing of the certificate 8 of candidacy: Provided, That any government official or employee who 9 resigns in order to run for delegate and who does not yet qualify for retirement 10 under existing laws, may, if elected, add to the length of service in the 11 government the period from the filing of the delegate's certificate of candidacy 12 until the final adjournment of the Convention.

(3) Any person elected or appointed, and qualified as delegate to the
Convention shall not be eligible to run for the office in the first local and
national elections to be held after the ratification of the proposed amendments
to the 1987 Constitution; or appointed to any government office or position
while the Convention is in session and during the period of one (1) year after
its final adjournment.

SEC. 6. *Who May Convene*. – The Secretary of the Senate and the Secretary General
of the House of Representatives shall initially take charge of all arrangements for the
convening of the Convention.

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SEC. 7. *Commencement of Session*. – The Convention shall meet in the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on December 1, 2023 at ten o'clock in the morning.

The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointlypreside at its opening until a presiding officer is elected by the Convention from among the

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delegates. The Convention shall be deemed organized upon the election of the Convention 1 President and presiding officer, which shall be the first order of business. 2

3 SEC. 8. Term and Emoluments. - The term of office of the delegates shall be 4 seven (7) months from December 1, 2023 up to June 30, 2024. The Office of the Delegate shall 5 be without compensation and shall not be compatible with any other public office in the 6 government or any government-owned or controlled corporations or any of their subsidiaries: 7 Provided. That every delegate shall be entitled to a per diem of Ten thousand pesos (Php10,000.00) for every day of actual attendance in the Convention or in any of its 8 committees: *Provided, further*, That every delegate shall be entitled to necessary traveling and 9 lodging expenses to and from the delegate's place of residence when attending sessions of the 10 11 Convention or any of its committees.

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SEC. 9. Parliamentary Immunity. - Laws relative to parliamentary immunity of 13 Members of Congress shall be applicable to the delegates for the duration of the Convention.

14 SEC. 10. Administration and Technical Assistance. - All government entities, 15 agencies and instrumentalities, including the Senate and the House of Representatives, shall be 16 made available, when necessary, with the consent of the Senate President and Speaker of the 17 House of Representatives, which include their personnel, office premises, and facilities as they 18 can, in their judgment, be spared without detriment to the public service, without cost, refund 19 or additional pay.

SEC. 11. Convention Report. - The Convention shall submit its report to the 20 21 President and the Congress of the Republic of the Philippines, and the COMELEC within 22 thirty (30) days from the completion of the consolidated amendments, or on July 30, 2024.

23 SEC. 12. Ratification. - The amendments to the Constitution proposed by the 24 Convention shall be valid when ratified by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite which 25 shall be held not earlier than sixty (60) days nor later than ninety (90) days after the submission of the Convention Report. 26

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SEC. 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The COMELEC shall issue such
 rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act within fifteen (15)
 days from the effectivity of this Act.

SEC. 14. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
shall be charged against any available appropriations in the General Appropriations Act.
Thereafter, the amount necessary for the operations of the Constitutional Convention and
the subsequent plebiscite shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8 SEC. 15. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
9 unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 16. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, rules, regulations or parts thereof
 which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 17. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
 in the *Official Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,