

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL -7 A9:15

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 518

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Suffrage is the most powerful means by which the sovereign will is expressed by the people. It is through the ballot that such will finds its more concrete manifestation.

Yet in modern Philippine political history, unscrupulous parties particularly those whose intention is to perpetuate themselves in power, by devious schemes and designs, violate the sanctity of the ballot.

This bill provides for extra safeguards in the custody and distribution of said ballots prior to an electoral exercise.

Premises considered, the early passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 186 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS
AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 186 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, otherwise known
as the Election Code of the Philippines, as amended, is hereby amended to read
as:

"SEC. 186. *Distribution of official ballots and election returns.*- [The
official ballots and the election returns shall be distributed by the
Commission to each city and municipality at the rate of one and one-fifth
(1 1/5) ballots for every voter registered in each polling place; and for
election returns, at the rate of one set each for every polling place.]

THE COMMISSION SHALL DISTRIBUTE TO EACH CITY AND
MUNICIPALITY THE OFFICIAL BALLOTS AT THE RATE OF ONE (1)
BALLOT FOR EVERY REGISTERED VOTER AND AN ADDITIONAL
TEN (10) BALLOTS PER PRECINCT, AND ELECTION RETURNS AT
THE RATE OF ONE (1) SET FOR EVERY PRECINCT.

The provincial, city OR municipal treasurer, OR SUCH OTHER
GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WHO MAY BE TASKED WITH THE DUTY OF
STORING AND DISTRIBUTING ELECTION FORMS AND MATERIALS,
SHALL [respectively] keep a record of the quantity and serial numbers of
official ballots and election returns [furnished the various] ALLOCATED
TO THE RESPECTIVE provinces, cities and municipalities and [polling
places] PRECINCTS. [as the case may be, legible copies of which]
COPIES OF SUCH record shall be furnished the COMMISSION AND THE
duly authorized [provincial, city, or municipal] representatives of the [ruling
party and the dominant opposition party, and the Commission immediately
after the distribution is made of such official ballots and election returns.]
ACCREDITED POLITICAL PARTIES, ORGANIZATIONS, OR
COALITIONS WHICH FIELDED CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTION
IMMEDIATELY UPON DISTRIBUTION BUT NOT LATER THAN THE
DAY AFTER THE ELECTION. THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE
THE ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL DELIVERY RECEIPTS FOR THE

OFFICIAL BALLOTS, ELECTION RETURNS AND OTHER ELECTION
FORMS AND PARAPHERNALIA.

[The Commission shall prescribe the use of official delivery receipts to be signed by the election registrar and the chairman of the board of canvassers upon receipt of the election returns.]

No official ballots or election returns shall be delivered to the board of election inspectors earlier than the first hour of election day [;]. [Provided, however, that] the Commission [, after written notice to the registered political parties and the candidates,] may, for justifiable reasons, AND AFTER NOTICE TO THE CANDIDATES AND THE ACCREDITED POLITICAL PARTIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS FIELDING CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTION, authorize the delivery of [said] official ballots and election returns to the board of [election] inspectors [of any particular polling place] at an earlier date."

SEC. 2. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, issuances, orders, rules and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 3. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,