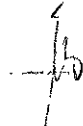


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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 3074

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The democratic principle requires the broadest participation in electoral and similar exercises by persons who have all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications to vote.

Under the electoral law now in force the rule is that a person has to be physically present in the polling place whereof he is a registered voter in order to be able to vote subject to several exceptions such as government officials and employees, members of the AFP and members of the PNP who are duly registered voters and temporarily assigned on election day in places where they are not registered to perform public functions and duties as well as the qualified Filipino citizens abroad.

This bill seeks to grant the members of the media who are assigned to places other than their place of registration the privilege to participate in electoral exercises, under certain conditions.

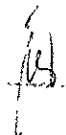
In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
MANNY VILLAR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
Second Regular Session

9 FEB 17 P4:25

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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 3074

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR ABSENTEE VOTING BY THE MEMBERS OF MEDIA  
WHO ARE AWAY FROM THE PLACES OF THEIR REGISTRATION BY  
REASON OF OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS ON ELECTION DAY**

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

**SECTION 1.** Declaration of Policy. Elections shall be free and equal. The State shall always ensure the free exercise of the right of suffrage by all citizens of the Philippines not otherwise disqualified by law.

**SECTION 2.** Any person who by reason of his/her functions and duties as a member of media, is not in his/her place of registration on election day, may vote in the city/municipality where he/she is assigned on election day; provided, that he/she is a duly registered voter.

**SECTION 3.** Thirty (30) days before the election, the appropriate head of office shall submit to the Commission on Elections a list of members of media who are registered voters, and who, by reason of their duties and functions, will be in places other than their place of registration, and who desire to exercise their right to vote, with the request that said members of media be provided with application forms to cast absentee ballots in their place of assignment.

The list and the request shall be under oath.

**SECTION 4.** Upon verification by the Commission on Elections that the persons included in the list are qualified voters, it shall transmit the exact number of application forms to the head of the office making the request.

**SECTION 5.** Upon verification of the applications, the Commission shall transmit the exact number of absentee ballots to the Office of the City or Municipal Election Registrar.

**SECTION 6.** The absentee voters shall vote one week before election day. They shall do so by casting votes in office of the City or Municipal Election Registrar of the place of their assignment.

**SECTION 7.** The special Commission on Elections absentee ballot shall be placed within two security envelopes, the one containing the absentee ballots indicating only that it is an envelope of the Commission on Elections, and the other envelope indicating the name of the absentee voter and his/her voter's registration record number.

**SECTION 8.** The Commission on Elections official concerned to whom the absentee vote is delivered shall immediately transmit by the fastest means available to the Commission on Elections the special Commission on Elections absentee ballot within two security envelopes so that the same are in the central office of the Commission one day before the elections.

The transmittal letter shall indicate the names of the persons who cast the absentee votes, their voter's registration record number and their certificates of eligibility to vote absentee.

**SECTION 9.** The Commission on Elections shall canvass the votes cast by absentee voters and shall add the results of the same to the votes reported throughout the country.

**SECTION 10.** The Commission shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SECTION 11.** Positions to be voted for. Only the positions for President, Vice-President, Senator and Party-list shall be voted for under the absentee voting.

**SECTION 12.** Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be provided in a supplemental budget or included in the General Appropriations Act of the year of its enactment into law. Thereafter, the expenses for its continued implementation shall be included in the subsequent General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 13.** Separability Clause. If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 14.** Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, other issuances, and parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 15.** Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,