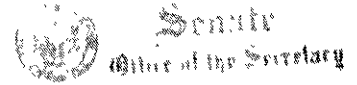


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



15 MAY 13 A9 55

SENATE
S. No. 2763

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(In Substitution of SBNs 924 and 1440)

Prepared by the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation;
and Finance with Senators Lapid, Defensor Santiago, Pimentel III, and
Escudero as authors

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF ABSENTEE
VOTING FOR QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE
ELECTORAL STAFF OF NATIONAL CANDIDATES AND
ACCREDITED NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND
PARTY-LISTS, AND ELECTION LAWYERS**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to
2 ensure the free exercise of the right of suffrage by all citizens of the Philippines
3 not otherwise disqualified by law.

4

5 **SECTION 2.** *Local Absentee Voting for the Electoral Staff of National*
6 *Candidates and Accredited National Political Parties.* – The Commission on
7 Elections (COMELEC) shall extend the right to vote under the local absentee
8 voting system provided under existing laws and executive orders, to the
9 electoral staff of national candidates, except candidates for district

1 representative, and accredited national political parties and party-lists, who are
2 duly registered voters, and who, on election day, may not be able to vote due to
3 the performance of their functions as electoral staff in the conduct, monitoring,
4 and ensuring the integrity of election-related activities.

5
6 For purposes of this Act, the number of electoral staff of a national
7 candidate, an accredited national political party, or an accredited party-list that
8 may avail of the right to vote under the local absentee voting system shall be
9 limited to the total number of provinces, highly urbanized cities, and
10 independent component cities.

11
12 **SECTION 3.** *Local Absentee Voting for Election Lawyers.* – The
13 COMELEC shall extend the right to vote under the local absentee voting system
14 provided under existing laws and executive orders to members of the Integrated
15 Bar of the Philippines, who are duly registered voters, and who, on election day,
16 may not be able to vote due to the performance of their functions in monitoring
17 the observance of laws during the elections.

18 For purposes of this Act only, a maximum of three (3) election lawyers
19 per candidate, accredited national political party, or accredited party-list shall be
20 allowed to avail of the right to vote under the local absentee voting system.

21
22 **SECTION 4.** *Limitations.* – Persons covered by this Act shall only be
23 allowed to vote for the positions of President, Vice-President, Senators, and
24 Party-List Representative.

25
26 **SECTION 5.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The COMELEC
27 shall, within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, promulgate the
28 implementing rules and regulations which shall include a system of

1 accreditation and verification of the electoral staff of national candidates and
2 accredited national political parties and party-lists, and of election lawyers, who
3 are qualified to avail of local absentee voting.

4
5 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the
6 implementation and enforcement of this Act shall be charged against the current
7 year’s appropriations or from any available savings of the COMELEC.
8 Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continued implementation
9 of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

10
11 **SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, and
12 issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
13 Act, are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

14
15 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision of this Act or
16 part hereof be declared unconstitutional, the other provisions or parts not
17 affected thereby shall remain valid and effective.

18
19 **SECTION 9. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
20 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,